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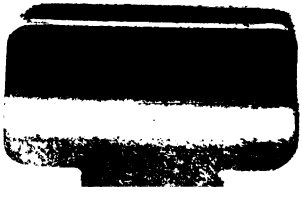

NATURE AND CULTURE.

BY

HARVEY RICE.

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NATURE AND HER LESSONS.

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NATURE AND CULTURE.

NATURE AND HER LESSONS.

NATURE declares herself in her works. What exists beyond her domain, if any thing, becomes necessarily a matter of faith or imagination. And yet the origin of the material universe presents a problem which neither the vagaries of the ancients nor the speculations of the moderns have been able to solve in a satisfactory manner.

In modern methods of logic, we reason from cause to effect, from the known to the unknown; but, in attempting to penetrate the region of the unknown, we are often left without a reliable guide. Analogy may aid, but cannot assure us. The powers of the human mind, if not infinite, may admit of infinite culture. What is supposed to be "unknowable" may, therefore, become known. However this may be, there is no divine injunction which prescribes a limit to human possibilities.

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Whatever we may think or believe, the volume of Nature contains nothing but truth. It is, in fact, God's manuscript, which awaits interpreters, and which, if read aright, leaves nothing to conjecture. Men of science, in attempting to read this unerring record, have advanced many plausible theories in relation to the processes by which the earth acquired its embodiment, and took its place among the golden orbs of heaven.

There are reasons for believing that matter has always existed in some form or other, and that it is infinite in extent as well as in duration. Nor need we hesitate to infer, from the knowledge we have of the various forms in which matter exists, that what is true of the earth, in its processes of development, is equally true of every other planet.

Whether the earth in its origin was a fragment thrown off from some exploded planet which had filled the measure of its destiny, or whether it arose from the gradual accretion of elementary substances diffused in infinite space, are questions which cannot be satisfactorily answered. Either method is not only plausible, but consistent with the known laws and operations of Nature.

It seems quite probable that those erratic bodies known as comets are but incipient plan-

ets, which continue, as they revolve in their mystical flight, to accumulate gaseous matter until they have acquired and condensed a sufficient amount to become orbs, or worlds; when, by the influence of physical forces, they take their places in some one or other of the existing planetary systems. It is thus, perhaps, that the law of development constructs a world with as much ease as it constructs a grain of sand. Nor can we doubt that the processes of aggregation and dissolution are made reciprocal in their relations, and perpetual in their action.

In a philosophical sense, "life" and "death" are but conventional terms, meaning nothing more than a change of matter from one form of existence to another. Whatever changes may take place, matter can neither be increased nor diminished. Infinite space, being an immateriality, could never have been created, and cannot, therefore, be limited or annihilated. In all probability, it still is, and always has been, filled with the elements of matter; too subtile, perhaps, to be perceived, yet destined, in the course of eternal ages, to be wrought and re-wrought into infinite varieties of corporeal existences, mineral, vegetal, and animal, ever progressing from the imperfect to the perfect. Thus Nature teaches us the lesson that in perfection dwells the central Life, the quickening power of the universe.

In accordance with this view, we may regard every particle of matter in the universe as the germ of a world. And yet what are called original elements may be such, or may not. Supposed monads, or simple unities, if they exist at all, may be capable of analysis by the application of physical agencies or forces as yet unknown to science. Though science has disclosed much that is wonderful in the mechanism of Nature, there still lies before us an infinite unknown. Whether ultimately the human mind will become so enlarged and extended in its powers as to comprehend the infinite, admits of no positive assurance; yet, in the unrevealed design of the great future, such may be the result.

It is only in modern times that science has taken the advanced step, and led philosophy into the beautiful avenues of Nature; where, amid the infinite, she gazes at the universe, listens to the music of the spheres, and beholds the golden wealth of the infinite displayed on every side. It is thus that philosophy has become inspired with a desire to account for every thing, and finds that Nature has written her own history in the hills and in the rocks, in the depths of the sea, and in the stars of heaven, leaving nothing more to be done than to read the record, and accept its truthful teachings. In fact, the mate-

rial universe may be regarded as an outspoken revelation of the infinite.

The elementary substances which compose the earth and its atmosphere are essentially the same, and are not numerous, so far as ascertained. The leading vital principle is oxygen, which constitutes at least one-half of all known matter. The earth's crust is estimated to be about fifty miles thick. This estimate is based on the fact, that, in penetrating the earth, the heat uniformly increases at a rate which would fuse all mineral substances at that depth.

Hence the interior of the earth is believed to be a region of molten substances, fiery billows that roll impatient of restraint, and escape, here and there, in the form of volcanic eruptions. Volcanoes are, therefore, but the outposts of gigantic central forces, and earthquakes but the spasmodic trials of their strength. It would seem, go where we will, that "fiery billows" literally roll beneath our feet. What Nature's ultimate designs are, it is impossible to predict. But it is pretty certain that her internal fires are working out some mystical problem. A scientific German has recently ascertained that the surface of the earth is gradually becoming hotter, and that in five hundred millions of years it will attain to such a degree of heat as to destroy human life. And yet there are

other scientists equally wise, perhaps, who assert that the earth's crust is gradually cooling and contracting, and therefore radiating less heat; the final result of which will be the destruction of all life, and a return of the glacial period.

Geological science, as well as revelation, impresses us with the belief that in the beginning "the earth was without form, and void," — a chaos of atoms which were gathered, comet-like, from infinite space, and made to revolve in a globular mass by physical forces, until it became, by the condensation of its vapory atmosphere, submerged in a flood of dark and interminable waters. In consequence of the action of the waters on mineral substances, vast deposits of sediment accumulated; which, with the aid of pressure and chemical heat, gradually hardened into rocks, strata upon strata, like solid masonry, and varying in thickness from the fraction of a mile to thirty miles, or more. Nature seems to have adopted this method of construction, as a prerequisite to the severance of the land from the waters. In effecting this object, the explosive forces, long confined in the earth's interior, are supposed to have burst asunder the walls of their prison-house, suddenly upheaving continents and mountains from the depths of a dismal and shoreless ocean. It was then that the

"dry land" made its first appearance, and was baptized in the pure sunlight of heaven.

The virgin soil of the earth, when thus exposed to the genial influence of the sun, soon produced vegetal life, and vegetal life animal life, — the one the food of the other. Thus Nature ever provides for her guests in advance of their reception. Yet in her formative processes she "makes haste slowly," though she may sometimes leap to conclusions. Her work never ceases. A million of years is to her as one day, and one day as a million of years. Hence every thing has its age, and is lost in the ages. Of this fact, we have reliable evidence in the strata of the rocks, and in the limited field of our own observation. There can be no doubt the earth has been many times baptized in fire and water, and its crust broken into fragments, and thrown into strange angles and relations. These grand upheavals have occurred at dates vastly remote from each other, and are recognized by science as great geological periods.

The Ages of Nature, so far as relates to the earth, may be classed briefly, as the primary, or reign of fishes; the secondary, or reign of reptiles; the tertiary, or reign of mammals; and the modern, or reign of man. Each of these ages constitutes a grand chapter in the earth's history, which is easily read and understood by

the masters of geological science. The same agencies which were employed in constructing the earth's crust are still employed in reconstructing it. In fact, the work of creation is still going on as in the beginning, if beginning there ever was in Nature's material processes. We see this illustrated in the changes which are produced on the earth's surface, in our own time, by the action of the rain, the wind, the frost, the flood, the glacier, the volcano, and the earthquake.

It is by these agencies that the hills and the mountains are graded down, and the *detritus* deposited in the valleys and in the sea. Thus are valleys enriched and broadened, vast plains and deltas created, and continents enlarged. When the present hills and mountains have been reduced to plains, and the fertility of the soil exhausted, it is quite probable that another grand upheaval of the earth's foundations will occur; the birth-power by which new hills and mountains are lifted up, and continents changed to ocean-beds, and ocean-beds to continents. It is these mighty changes and exchanges that prepare the way, and fit the earth, for the production of higher orders of plants and animals, and, perhaps, a higher order of man.

In the course of unknown ages, Nature has enriched, and extended the valley of the Nile

hundreds of miles into the sea, by transporting thither the pulverized wealth of the Abyssinian mountains. Thus fertilized, Egypt has for many thousands of years sustained a dense population. Very justly has she been called not only the cradle of mankind, but the granary of the world. In like manner, the Ganges transports from the interior of India a sufficient amount of sediment, annually, to cover a township, five miles square, to the depth of ten feet; and by this means has extended the land hundreds of miles into the ocean. The Hoang, a river of China, by its deposits of alluvium in the sea, has added an entire province to that country, comprising an area of ninety-six thousand square miles. Indeed, all rivers are tributaries to the sea, and all seas tributaries to the rivers. This exchange is effected mainly by the rains and the snows, the exhalations and the waterspouts. The clouds are but common carriers. This commerce is therefore a matter of mutual interest, and grows out of the positive necessities of sea and land. Though the elements appear to move in conflict, they really move in perfect harmony, and bring order out of seeming confusion.

In executing a gigantic work, no river has excelled the Mississippi. This "Father of Waters" has distinctly indicated, in the record

of his career, the prehistorical age of the world, and the equally prehistorical advent of man. In his "march to the sea," he has left enduring landmarks; and with his battle-axe notched centuries long lost in the mighty past. The land which this majestic river has formed, by depositing sediment in the Gulf of Mexico, comprises an area of thirty thousand square miles. This deposit or delta has a depth exceeding one thousand feet; and the period required for its accumulation has been estimated by Mr. Lyell, the renowned geologist, at one hundred thousand years.

This estimate only embraces the deposits since the river ran in its present channel. The bluffs along the river rise in many places two hundred and fifty feet, and contain shells, with the remains of the mastodon, elephant, tapir, megalonyx, and other huge animals. It is evident that these bluffs must have belonged to an ancient plain or valley long anterior to the present level. In several sections of the valley as it now exists, excavations have been made deeper than the Gulf of Mexico, and successive growths of cypress-timber found, to the number of four or five distinct growths; the lowest lying at the depth of six hundred feet. Some of these trees are ten feet in diameter, and have from five to six thousand annual rings of growth.

As the plain of the river rose by deposits of sediment, a new growth of cypress was produced, and is now supervened by the live-oak plain, so called, which has had an existence, as estimated by the annual rings of the oaks, of fourteen thousand years.

In excavating for gas-works at New Orleans, a human skull was found beneath the roots of a cypress belonging to the fourth-forest level, in a good state of preservation, while the other bones of the skeleton crumbled to dust on exposure to the air. The type of the cranium was that of the aboriginal American. Now, if we take the period required to form the live-oak level, and add it to the time required to produce the next three subterranean growths of cypress which overlie the fourth growth in which the cranium was found, it clearly proves that the human race existed in the great Valley of the Mississippi more than fifty-seven thousand years ago.

Not only in the Valley of the Mississippi have fossil remains of man and animals been discovered at depths and in formations that prove their remote antiquity, but in many other parts of the world. Not many years ago, a human skull was found in Brazil, embedded in a sandstone rock overgrown with lofty trees. There is still preserved, in the museum at Quebec, a

human skull, which was excavated from the solid schist-rock on which the citadel now stands. Human skeletons have also been found in the island of Guadaloupe, embedded in a rock said to be as hard as the finest statuary marble. Even so recently as the year 1868, while sinking a well at the Antelope station, on the Union Pacific Railroad, the workmen penetrated a rock six feet thick, and, at eighty feet below the rock, discovered a human skeleton in such a state of preservation as to be readily recognized as such.

In another instance, it is said that a human skull was discovered in Calaveras County, Cal., at the bottom of a shaft which had been sunk one hundred and thirty feet below the surface. It was found deposited in a bed of gravel with other organic remains, and beneath the eighth distinct geological layer of earth and gravel; where it must have lain, according to the estimate of Prof. Whitney, the geologist, for a period of at least one hundred thousand years. This remote antiquity of man is also confirmed by discoveries, in every part of the world, of the fossil remains of domestic animals as well as of man, including implements of human invention, such as flint arrow-heads, stone axes, war-weapons, cooking-utensils, in localities which preclude the idea of their belonging to an age that has a written history.

It is not unfrequent that fossil remains of human bones and of animals are found embedded in the coral-reef limestone of Florida. In fact, says Prof. Agassiz, the whole peninsula of Florida has been formed by successive growths of coral reefs and shells. He estimates the formation of the southern half of the peninsula, as occupying a period of one hundred and thirty-five thousand years. The sea contains ingredients which feed innumerable animalcula, especially the polypes, or coral-builders, which have the power of secreting calcareous matter. These myriads of noiseless architects are ever busy in building for themselves fairy temples in the depths of the ocean, of the most delicate and beautiful workmanship, and in erecting pyramids and islands, and in extending continents.

In the mean time, there are other agencies of a very different character continually at work, modifying the earth's surface, and preparing it for sustaining a still higher order of vegetal and animal life. As a result of these agencies, especially the volcanic, it often happens that serious calamities befall the human family. In the course of a century, not less than two thousand volcanic eruptions occur on the globe, equal to twenty a year, or one every eighteen days. The whole number of volcanoes known

to be active at the present time exceeds three hundred; and doubtless many times that number have long since become extinct.

In Europe, Asia, Africa, and America, there are extensive tracts or belts of country which are volcanic in their character; and especially is this true of the entire American Pacific coast, and the ocean-bed adjoining it. Often have long lines of this coast been elevated or depressed many feet, as if the whole continent were afloat, and tossing like a ship on a stormy sea. Neither in the past, nor in the present, has the earth seemed to rest on a sure foundation. Even in apparent security there is no positive safety.

Nature must and will exercise her sterner as well as her milder powers. In achieving gigantic works, she employs gigantic powers. Her forces are her own; and, when she directs them to execute her mandates, she is promptly obeyed. She models and remodels the earth's exterior and interior at pleasure, but never without a beneficent design. Earthquakes break up the earth's crust. Internal fires melt it. Exploding gases lift it. Gravitation moulds it. The atmosphere cools it. The sun and the rain clothe it with verdure; and flowers crown it with beauty.

Though Nature has made for man ample pro-

vision, she requires him not only to help himself, but to take care of himself. Nor does she give him formal notice to keep out of harm's way, when she wishes to break up the earth's crust, and re-cast it; but proceeds at once. She may sink or elevate a continent at a blow, or she may do it by slow degrees.

The earliest writers give us accounts of terrific earthquakes. Thucydides alludes to volcanic eruptions which occurred five hundred years before the Christian era. In the vicinity of volcanic mountains, it has happened that city after city, in the course of ages, has been ingulfed, one upon another, in molten lava, or cinders, leaving no record behind them of their unhappy fate. Herculaneum lies buried a hundred feet deep beneath the modern city of Portici; and, beneath Herculaneum, a city still more ancient has been discovered, whose name and history are entirely unknown. How many other cities lie buried at the foot of the old fire-crowned monarch of Italy, no one can tell; but doubtless there are several of them. What induced people to occupy a locality so perilous, it is difficult to say, unless it was the superior fertility of a volcanic soil.

No part of the world is exempt from sudden calamities of a similar character. The earthquake experienced by the city of Antioch in

Syria, in the year 626, destroyed two hundred and fifty thousand people. The great eruption of Mount Etna, in 1669, overflowed fourteen towns, containing from three to four thousand inhabitants each. The stream of lava which issued from the mountain was half a mile wide, and forty feet deep, and swept every thing before it, until lost in the sea. The earthquake at Lisbon, in 1775, killed sixty thousand persons in six minutes. The shock was felt in Switzerland, in Scotland, in Massachusetts, and on the shore of Lake Ontario. In 1783 a large river in Iceland was sunk into the earth by volcanic action, and entirely obliterated. In 1792 an earthquake in the island of Java sunk a tract of land fifteen miles long, and six miles wide, carrying down with it forty small villages. In our own country and in our own neighborhood, in 1811, several islands in the Mississippi River, near New Madrid, were sunk by an earthquake, and the course of the river driven back eighteen miles, causing it to overflow the adjacent lands. About half the county of New Madrid, as well as the village, was submerged. Several new lakes were created, one of which was sixty miles long, and several miles wide. The earth's surface rose in undulations like the billows of the sea, and, with terrific utterances, opened yawning chasms, from which vast columns of sand and

water, and a substance resembling coke, were thrown out. The whole face of the country in that region was materially changed. And, what is a little singular, one of the lakes thus created by the earthquake extended to the river at a point nearly opposite the famous Island No. 10, thus affording a natural canal by which the Union forces, in the late civil war, approached and took the island. It would seem that even earthquakes, though they shake the Union, still aim to preserve it.

It is not improbable that the entire chain of our great north-western lakes, from Ontario to Superior, were created by the volcanic collapse of a mountain range that once occupied the same localities. Of this fact there are plausible, if not irresistible evidences to be seen in the volcanic character of the rocks at various points along the entire coast. Nor can it be very well doubted that subsequent volcanic action has elevated much of the coast into several corresponding ridges, from one to two miles apart, which distinctly mark the successive boundaries of these inland seas.

Nature removes mountains, or creates them at pleasure. She also makes and unmakes lakes and rivers, to say nothing of oceans and continents. In California, and doubtless in other parts of the world, there are as many dead as

living rivers. The miners of California have already discovered the old channels of a dozen or more dead rivers, as they call them, incased and sealed up in the very heart of the mountain ranges, and extending, in some instances, hundreds of miles in the general direction of the ranges; and leaping from mountain to mountain at a common level or grade. These ancient channels are filled with sand, gravel, and small bowlders, evidently worn and polished by long attrition. Some of the channels are a mile wide, or more, and from ten to one hundred feet deep. In the angles or eddies, the sands are found to be exceedingly rich in gold, sometimes yielding fifty dollars or more to the cubic yard. It is estimated that over three hundred millions of dollars have already been taken from the sands of these dead rivers, and that they are now yielding at least ten millions a year. It is evident that these dead rivers must have been living rivers long before the volcanic era arrived, which elevated the ancient valleys into mountain ranges, and depressed the ancient mountain ranges into valleys.

In the South-American earthquake of August, 1868, thirty thousand lives were lost, several cities entirely obliterated, and three hundred millions of dollars worth of property destroyed. A tidal wave, more than forty feet deep, swept

over the land, and deposited, high and dry, and beyond recovery, several first-class ships. The effect of this earthquake was felt along the coast for a distance of six to seven thousand miles. In October of the same year, the city of San Francisco was visited by an earthquake, which shattered many buildings, and destroyed several lives. It is supposed that this was but a prolongation of the South-American earthquake.

In some parts of California and South America, thunder and lightning seldom occur, while earthquakes are frequent. In regions like these, earthquakes would seem to be a substitute for thunder and lightning. In all probability, both are but electrical phenomena, differing only in the fact that the one is an earthquake, the other a skyquake. It is in plains and valleys that earthquakes prove the most destructive. Doubtless the solid material, composing the mountain ranges, affords a better conductor of electricity than the alluvial soil of the plains and the valleys. Hence, while the one serves as a lightning-rod, the other becomes the battle-ground of conflicting elements. It may be that electrical forces are generated in the earth's interior, as well as in the atmosphere, and that the earthquake is but the shock produced by the restoration of an equilibrium. The earth and the atmosphere are essentially the same in their

elements, and are ever contributing of their substance to the requisitions of each other.

When physical science shall be so far advanced as to explain the true causes of the earthquake, if it does not make man "master of the situation," it will doubtless place in his hands the power of avoiding, to some extent at least, the calamities which now so often befall life and property.

The earth in her physical aspects seems like a veritable thing of life, possessed of flesh, blood, and bones, — her flesh, the soil; her blood, the rivers and the seas; her bones, the rock-ribbed mountains; her nostrils, the volcanoes; her breath, the winds; her eyelids, the skies; her tears, the dew-drops; her song, the melody of birds; her smile, the flowers; and her raiment, the sunbeams. It is the delight of her life to provide for her household, and at the same time dance to the "music of the spheres."

But, dropping metaphors, there can be no doubt the earth is a physical necessity not yet fully developed. Only about one-fourth part of its surface is land, the remainder water. Nearly three times more land lies north of the equator than south of it. Why this should be so, is not quite clear. In the course of the earth's future development, however, it is not

improbable that additional continents and islands will appear, and the waters subside into narrower and deeper channels, thus giving to man, and to land-life generally, a wider domain. And yet the present seas were not made in vain, but have always abounded with plant-life and animal-life, though of an inferior order as compared with land-life. Life in itself is infinite, and appears in infinite varieties both on land and in the sea. Whether man needs more land for his use and future development, is difficult to say. At any rate, every thing that exists has its mutual relations, and adapts itself to the ultimate aim of Nature, the perfection of man.

In the Western Hemisphere, the mountains take the general direction of north and south; in the Eastern, the general direction of east and west. In the one hemisphere, the ranges essentially accord with the lines of longitude; in the other, with the lines of latitude. These mountain ranges are but continental watersheds, from which flows the elemental wealth that enriches the plains and the valleys. The rivers and their tributaries are the commercial agents. The rain and the frost are the miners whose labors will never cease until the mountains are levelled. The mountains also attract and guide the storms, and modify their force; condense the mists, the raindrop, and the dewdrop; and

thus aid in refreshing the valleys in connection with the heat of the sunbeams. In this way the seasons, as well as the elements of the soil, are so modified and vitalized as to give to man seedtime and harvest, and needful food to every "living and creeping thing."

In addition to the world of life that is visible, there is a world of life that is invisible; a microscopic realm of animalcula, which "live and move and have their being" in every element of life, and in every life, and yet are so minute as to be imperceptible to the naked eye. These invisibles, or infusoria, abound everywhere and in every thing. They pervade the sea, the land, the air. They swarm in every drop of water, and revel in every morsel of food. We can neither eat nor drink without infringing on their domain, and consigning myriads of them, perhaps, to an unprovoked destruction. They are almost as various in grade, size, and shape, as they are numerous. Some are hideous, while others are comely. They feed on each other, the superior on the inferior, and are ever struggling for life and for the mastery. They engage in the "battle of life" to sustain life, and hold to the doctrine that to the "victors belong the spoils." It is an ascertained fact, that a speck of potato-rot, the size of a pin-head, contains hundreds of these little ferocious animals, fight-

ing and devouring each other without mercy and without cessation.

What seems still more surprising is, that they probably have a perfect organization, — heart, lungs, stomach, circulation of blood, and are endowed, perhaps, with all the five senses. Infinite numbers of them, it is supposed, exist in so minute a form, that no microscope, however great its power, can detect them. Nor need we doubt that even these living invisibles are beset with parasites vastly minuter than themselves, which feed and breed on their surfaces. In the very blood-circulation of the minutest, it is not improbable that other infusoria, still more minute, swim and prey upon each other. The uses for which this invisible world of life was created, though doubtless for a wise purpose, cannot be comprehended. Yet it is evident that every living thing, however minute, has a destiny of some sort, ever progressing, it may be, from a lower to a higher sphere, from the material to the spiritual, from the finite to the infinite.

> "All are but parts of one stupendous whole,
> Whose body Nature is, and God the soul."

The atmosphere, supposed to extend sixty miles in height, surrounds the earth like an invisible ocean, and gives to it, almost entirely,

its life-material. In fact, the atmosphere is the great reservoir of the vital elements, from which is derived the principal part, if not all, the material, solid or liquid, which enters into the composition of both plant and animal, whether it be a blade of grass, a leaf, or a tree; an insect, a fish, or a man. It is true, however, that animal-life is more directly the outgrowth of plant-life; and yet the vital forces of both are derived from the air, and return to the air by solar agencies. It is quite certain that all matter, as seen embodied in various forms, consists entirely of certain gases condensed or solidified by chemical laws. The atmosphere itself, and probably infinite space, are filled with matter in the gaseous form, or in some unknown form, destined to be condensed, dissolved, and re-condensed in a series of changes as continuous as the infinite ages.

In this sense, not only the earth, but every other planet, contains within itself the seeds of its own dissolution. Yet matter, whatever its form, is still indestructible, and will forever retain its vital forces. It would seem that life is the soul of matter, and that electricity is the soul of life; immaterial, it may be, and, if so, then immortal. Where the material ends, or where the spiritual begins, it is impossible to say. Of spirit or soul, we know nothing; nor

can we prove their existence, unless we accept the proofs as furnished by revelation. It is certain, however, that our moral character survives us, and continues to have an influence in the world for good or for evil, "according to the deeds done in the body." This fact is something which we can comprehend as constituting the ideal of our spiritual existence. Nor need we doubt, that, in discharging our duties to our fellow-men, we discharge our duties to God.

Everywhere about us, and especially in atmospheric phenomena, we see an epitome of Nature's processes and marvellous formative power. Not a snowflake falls to the ground that does not bring with it a crystallization of the most beautiful specimens of artistic embroidery, far excelling the finest needlework ever wrought by woman's hand. The same is true of the silver frostwork traced on the window-pane by the delicate touch of invisible fingers. In truth, every gem that glitters in the mine, every flower of the field, and every star in the sky, is but a crystallized expression of the beautiful, blended with a silent love that is pure and heartfelt, as if akin to us. In reality they are our kindred, and we are their kindred.

Nature seems to delight in creating the wonderful, as well as the beautiful, and often combines both in the same exhibition. Hence she

entertains us, occasionally, with a magnificent display of fireworks, known as northern lights; or with an apparent shower of falling stars; or with the sudden descent of an aërolite, all ablaze, as if dropped from the fiery forge of the sun; or with a brilliant comet, which, with its long and glittering trail, sweeps in ladylike style the star-dust from the pavement of the sky. These singular occurrences, though sometimes regarded as ominous, are but a part of Nature's systematic operations. They cannot, with any foundation in truth, be attributed to accident; for it is impossible that accidents should happen in the workshops of Nature, or in the administration of her government.

How the various meteors are actually formed, or whence they come, is a mystery which has induced much speculation among scientific men. Some say they are volcanic fragments thrown from the moon, or from some distant planet, or perhaps from a crater of the sun; while others, with more reason, suppose that they are generated in space, or in the earth's atmosphere, and are nothing more than condensed gases which constitute the elements of solid matter, and which become, in some instances, so hardened by chemical action as to assume the solidity of stone or iron.

And hence it often happens that the latter

class of these erratic strangers fall from the sky to the earth with a terrific explosion. In ancient times their appearance was regarded as portentous of national or individual calamities. The Chinese have records of meteoric showers, and the fall of aërolites, which occurred more than six hundred and forty years before the Christian era. The Greeks and Romans observed and recorded similar phenomena. Between the years 903 and 1833, not less than nineteen periodical star-showers have been recorded. The regular period of their occurrence is once in every thirty-three years, or thereabout, and usually about the middle of November. But what are called sporadic meteors, or shooting-stars, are of frequent occurrence, and may be seen almost every evening in the year.

The most brilliant meteoric shower on record is that of 1833, when meteors fell at the rate of two hundred and forty thousand per hour, creating the impression that all the stars of heaven had been unsphered, and were falling like a sheet of fire to the earth, and threatening a universal conflagration. Occurring as it did at midnight, and continuing for two or more hours, thousands of people, who witnessed the scene with fear and trembling, supposed the day of judgment had come. In just thirty-three years after this, Nov. 14, 1866, occurred

another periodical shower of a similar character, which, though less brilliant, was seen on a more extended scale in Europe than in the United States. Why this apparent storm of fire should occur every thirty-three years, is a mystery which science has not yet been able to explain. It may be a part of the machinery of our planetary system, and is, perhaps, as regular in its revolutions as the planets; or it may be a method of dissipating an over-accumulation in the earth's atmosphere, or in infinite space, of inflammable gaseous matter, which thus ignites spontaneously, and presents to the eye the appearance of burning sparks flying off, as it were, from the broad anvil and ponderous sledge employed in the great workshop of Nature. Be this as it may, meteoric showers, so far as known, have always proved harmless in their results.

But the aërolite assumes a more formidable character. In outline it is a globular mass heated to intensity, and in its approach comes with a hissing sound, and usually explodes in the atmosphere or when it strikes the earth. Its fragments show that it is a solid body, composed mostly of a ferruginous material. The illumination it creates in its passage through the atmosphere is sometimes seen at the distance of five or six hundred miles. Erratic

masses of this kind have been known to fall in all ages and in all countries, and are of frequent occurrence.

So recent as the year 1867 an aërolite of large dimensions fell in Tennessee, penetrating a hill-side of rocky formation to the depth of twenty feet. It was seen at a great distance, and came hissing on its way like a planet on fire, and, when it struck the earth, produced a shock like that of an earthquake. So intensely heated was it, that, for three days after it fell, it generated, and sent up from the moist earth, a dense column of steam, which rose and floated away like a cloud in the sky. When excavated, its mass was found to be composed principally of iron, and measured seven feet from apex to base, and ten feet in circumference. Fragments of it have been preserved, and may be seen at Washington, and in several collections of minerals belonging to scientific individuals. But where did it come from? Did it come from the sun, the moon, the earth, or from some exploded planet? or was it generated in the atmosphere? Though the question has not been satisfactorily answered, there are plausible reasons for believing that aërolites, and meteors generally, are the spontaneous production of atmospherical agencies. Physical forces are at work all over the earth, charging the atmosphere with

the identical materials that compose the meteoric stone, or aërolite. Volcanoes emit their gases, and hurl with terrific force burning fragments of rock into the depths of the sky. The tornado, or land-spout, takes up in its grasp sand, with other solid material, and rotates it with such violence as to produce fusion of the mass, giving it a globular form, and hurling it to an invisible height, and then leaving it to gravitate brilliantly and rapidly, until it reaches the earth. This theory is confirmed by many facts, and especially by the occurrence of a land-spout near the village of Ossonval in France, where, on the 6th of July, 1822, some broken clouds, coming from different directions, and collecting over the sandy plain, formed a single cloud which covered the heavens, when an elongated nether portion of it descended, presenting its vortex downward, and having its base in the cloud. It then became violent in its revolutions, and, being driven by the wind, overturned buildings, uprooted trees, twirling them in the air with liberal quantities of sand and water, which it had scooped up in its course, when, from its centre, amid sulphurous vapors, globes of fire were seen to issue, as if projected from an engine of terrific power, attended with a sound like that of heavy cannon discharged in the distance. Throughout its entire course it

left the fearful traces of its devastation. The globes of fire which were projected from its centre, it may well be supposed, possessed all the characteristics of veritable aërolites, and were thus manufactured by electrical heat and fusion out of the earth-material lifted from the plain.

Not long since, there fell near Romney, Ind., an aërolite in a liquid, or molten state, which flew into fragments the moment it struck the earth's surface. The spot where it fell was deeply indented and scorched; and the material of which it was composed was found scattered about in the vicinity, having the appearance of cinders, yet moulded into the form of small spherical bodies varying in size from a buck-shot to that of a cannon-ball. It is somewhat remarkable, that, in subjecting fractured portions of the cinders to intense heat, no perceptible odor was emitted, neither was the color or weight changed. The fact that these cinders descended in spherical bodies would seem to indicate that the parent mass approached the earth in a state of fusion, projecting from its surface, as it revolved, detached fragments, which, taking a rotatory impulse, became its attendant satellites in accordance with planetary laws.

Among many other aërolites that have fallen

in different parts of our country, one of considerable magnitude was seen to fall near Concord, Muskingum County, O., on the 1st of May, 1860. It approached the earth with a brilliancy as vivid as the sun, and exploded when it struck. Several fragments of it were excavated while quite hot, one of which, weighing eleven pounds, has been deposited in the Historical Rooms at Cleveland. It is composed of ferruginous matter, and seems almost as heavy as pure iron.

It is impossible for us to comprehend, from the standpoint we occupy in this life, our real relations either to the past or to the present, much less to the future. Earth has her manifold wonders, yet they are but few when compared with the infinite wonders of the heavens. Vast as our solar system truly is, it may still be regarded as but a chandelier suspended in the entrance-hall of Nature's great temple. When we consider that infinite space has neither centre nor circumference, and that it is filled with stars, and that every star is a world inhabited like our own, and that there are still infinite numbers of stars whose light, though travelling at the rate of one hundred and eighty-five thousand miles a second ever since the dawn of creation, has not yet reached the earth, we are lost, — lost in wonder and amazement, lost in thought, still wanting a thought broad enough and strong

enough to grasp the infinite. Who is there that would not, if he could, explore the untrodden yet brilliant domains of infinite space, the garden of God, ever blossoming with golden flowers, and thus acquire for himself divine wisdom? If we would become as gods, and walk with God, we must learn to partake the food, and drink the beverage, of the gods.

In physical science there is much that has a direct influence on the growth and vigor of moral science. In fact, Nature does much more for the welfare and education of man than he does for himself. The mountains elevate his thoughts, and teach him moral sublimity. The vast ocean, apparently shoreless, suggests to him the idea of eternity and a future life. The earthquake, the hurricane, and the lightning inspire him with a belief in the existence of a supreme Power, a divine Governor of the universe. Thus impressed with a sense of his own weakness and dependence, man naturally implores protection, and trusts in the beneficence and in the clemency of the great Invisible. Hence his faith, his hope, his aspirations. In this way was laid the primitive foundation of his creed and religious tendencies. And yet his weakest passion would seem to be his strongest, — a desire not only to perpetuate himself beyond this life, but to acquire superhuman

power. It is for this that he struggles, erects altars, and solicits aid from visionary as well as from divine sources.

Whether the perfection of mankind be the end and aim of Nature, need not be questioned. It is evident that she regards man as a favorite; and for this reason solicits him to accept the lessons of wisdom which are ever falling from her lips. In the plenitude of her love she attempts to lead him upward into a broader and a holier sphere. If man was able to trace his descent, and ascertain his origin, do you think he would find it in the ape, as Darwin affirms, or in the dust of the earth? Revelation replies — in the dust; and a sound philosophy confirms the fact.

Nature never stultifies herself. Nor does she develop a new species of animal or plant from an existing species; but, doubtless, encourages "natural selection" in the line of each distinct species, and, by so doing, promotes progress in her grand scheme of attaining perfection. Nor can it be doubted that from new conditions a new species may appear. In fact, every living thing is born of its appropriate conditions, and will continue to propagate its kind so long as its appropriate conditions exist. When conditions change, results change. In this way a new species of plant or animal may be, and

perhaps often is, generated. The process is simply one of change in the relation of the requisite life-elements, — a process which results from the unceasing operation of a great natural law. In Nature there is nothing constant but change.

Life, in all its varieties, whether vegetal or animal, has a rudimental origin, traceable, perhaps, to a minute egg, cell, or spore, call it what you will, from which is evolved, in due time, a perfect plant or animal. But if asked whence is derived the egg, cell, or spore, we can only reply, that they have their origin in certain primitive life-elements, which are brought into contact in a way so subtile as to elude the investigations of science. This life-law, whatever it may be, acts in reference to kind, and produces its kind. Nearly all forms of life have resemblances. Yet it does not follow that man was developed from an ape, or the bird from a flying-fish.

Every thing that lives, whether plant or animal, has its leading characteristics. Nearly all plants, as well as animals, evince a degree of intelligence in their choice of nutriment, and in their methods of obtaining it. Some plants, like animals, shrink at the touch, while others have the power of locomotion. Some seek the sunlight, while others prefer the shade. Some

imprison and appropriate insects as food, while others extend themselves in this or that direction in search of favorite companionship. It is doubtless true that plants, as well as animals, however low their grade, have sensation, perhaps consciousness, and, if so, a ray of reason. It would seem that mind is but an outgrowth of matter, and that every living thing has a degree of intelligence. Indeed, every particle of matter, organic or inorganic, has motive power, and is, therefore, endowed with a living principle, however sluggish or inert it may appear. An intelligent vitality seems to pervade the entire material of the universe. Hence it has been said, with some degree of plausibility, that "matter thinks." However this may be, it is certain that its motive power acts in reference to adapting means to ends, and is, therefore, controlled by reason, — a reason that is infinitely superior to human reason. In other words, all matter is the subject of law. The one is manifestly the condition of the other. The law cannot exist without the matter, nor can the matter exist without the law. Both are, therefore, coexistent, and doubtless co-eternal.

Nature is ever active in working "wonders in the heavnes and in the earth." Her domain includes both. In the beam of every star she sends us a messenger, revealing the fact that the

stars are constructed of the same materials as the earth. In like manner we have assurance that the same is true of the nebulous masses, which seem to float, like continents, in infinite space, awaiting the slow processes which are destined to mould them into golden orbs. And thus, from the depths of the infinite, comes world after world, system after system, ever sweeping onward in the "eternal dances of the sky," until lost in the infinite. And thus it is that the work of creation has neither beginning nor ending, but is ever progressing in its subtile methods of combining, dissolving, and re-combining the entire matter of the universe. Every thing, whether orb or atom, moves in a circle, because there is a divinity that stirs within it.

Philosophize as we may, it is certain that we are surrounded by the infinite, and are of the infinite. All that is terrestrial in us, all individualities, are evanescent, passing from one form into another. Nothing remains identical. Yet, in her experiments, Nature never fails of success. In dissolving pearls, she creates others of higher value; in extinguishing stars, she lights up others of greater brilliancy and magnitude. And yet nothing becomes extinct. Elements never die. Every plant and every animal is but the fruitage of the inherent life that pervades the material world.

In some form or other we always have existed, and always will exist. It has been well said that man, in his nature, is "half dust and half deity." His life does not begin with his birth, nor does it end with his death. He is immortal. And so is every thing, whether animate or inanimate, immortal. Even death survives itself. Nor is there a particle of matter in the universe that has not lived and breathed; nor is there a drop of water in the ocean that has not slaked the thirst of some living thing. Every star that glitters in the fathomless depths of space swarms with life, and every life achieves its aim. In a word, every thing is infinite, and subserves an infinite purpose. We need neither go nor come to reach heaven. It is here; it is everywhere; not a place, but a state. It is only the moral atmosphere of our social and individual life that requires purification, — a work that must begin in the head and in the heart, in order to be effective. When this purification has been achieved, then with our earth-life will come moral elevation; and with moral elevation, harmony with heaven. The God of Nature is the God in Nature, who not only reveals himself in her lessons, but takes us by the hand, and, with the love and patience of a parent, leads us onward and upward —

"Along the line of limitless desires."

WOMAN AND HER SPHERE.

WOMAN AND HER SPHERE.

WOMAN, like a flower, sprang to life in a garden of flowers, — sprang from the side of her lord, and took her place at his side, as a meet companion, to share his earth-life, his joys, and his sorrows.

The Greeks believed that the gods collected every thing that is beautiful in nature, out of which they formed the first woman; and, having crowned her brow with sunshine, intrusted her with the irresistible power of fascination.

It is certainly not less pleasant than natural to believe that woman was made of a more refined material than man; and it is doubtless true that every sincere worshipper of the beautiful delights to regard the "angel of his dreams" not only as an incarnation of all that is lovable, but as a divine spirituality, — a vision from a brighter and holier sphere. An old writer remarks, that, in order to make an entirely beautiful woman, it would be necessary to take the head from Greece, the bust from Austria, the feet from Hindostan, the shoulders from Italy,

the walk from Spain, and the complexion from England. At that rate she would be a mosaic in her composition; and the man who married her might well be said to have "taken up a collection."

However mystical may be the origin of woman, it is certain that we should look to the moral beauty of her life, rather than to her personal charms, in estimating the true value of her character. In her nature, woman is a loyalist, — loyal to man, and loyal to God. In all ages of the world, in all countries, and under all circumstances, she has ever been distinguished for her patience, her fortitude, and her forbearance, as well as for those still higher and diviner attributes, her love and her devotion.

Endowed with charms which give her the power of conquest, woman ever delights in making conquests; and, though she may sometimes "stoop to conquer," she never fails to elevate the conquered. With the smile of love resting on her brow, she aims to fulfil her mission by scattering flowers along the pathway of life, and inspiring the sterner sex with reverence for her virtues and for the angelhood of her nature.

The true woman exhibits a true womanhood in all she does, in all she says, — in her heart-life and in her world-life. Her love once bestowed

on him who is worthy of it, increases with her years, and becomes as enduring as her life, —

"In death, a deathless flame."

Not only in the sincerity of her love, but in all her sympathies, in her quick sense of duty, and in her devotion to all that is good, right, and just, she discloses, without being conscious of it, the divinity of her character.

It is in sacred history that we find the earliest record of woman's virtues, acquirements, and achievements. It is there that we read of women, who were not only distinguished for their exalted piety and exemplary habits of life, but who often excelled even the great men of renown in sagacity of purpose, and in the exercise of sceptred power. It is in sacred history that we have the earliest account of the social and domestic relations of the human family, the most prominent of which is the institution of marriage.

The first marriage of which we have any account took place in a garden, without the usual preliminaries and ceremonies which have marked its solemnization in subsequent periods of the world's history; yet we must believe that it was the most august and sublime wedding that ever occurred. The witnesses of the ceremony were none other than the angels of God. Nature

presented her choicest flowers, and the birds of Paradise sang the bridal hymn; while earth and sky rejoiced in the consummation of the "first match made in heaven."

It may be presumed, perhaps, that all matches are made in heaven; yet, somehow or other, sad mistakes occur when least expected. Even our first parents, though placed in a garden of innocence, encountered a serpent in their pathway. It need not seem very strange, therefore, that the "course of true love never did run smooth." Yet there are but few who would not concur with Tennyson in thinking, —

> "Tis better to have loved and lost,
> Than never to have loved at all."

In affairs of the heart there is no such thing as accounting for the freaks of fancy, or the choice of dissimilar tastes. Singular as it may be, most people admire contrasts. In other words, like prefers unlike; the tall prefer the short; the beautiful the unbeautiful; and the perverse the reverse. In this way Nature makes up her counterparts with a view to assimilate her materials, and bring harmony out of discord. It is from accords and discords that we judge of music, and determine its degree of excellence. In wedded life, even discords have their uses; since a family jar, now and then, is

often attended with the happiest results, by bringing into timely exercise a higher degree of mutual forbearance, and inspiring the heart with a purer, sincerer, and diviner appreciation of the "silken tie."

There is no topic, perhaps, of deeper interest to a woman than that of wedlock. It is an event, when it does occur, which brightens or blasts forever her fondest hopes and her purest affections. The matrimonial question is, therefore, the great question of a woman's life. In deciding it, she takes a risk which determines the future of her heart-life. When the motive is stamped with the imperial seal of Heaven, it is certain the heart will recognize it as genuine, and trust in it. The language of love speaks for itself, sometimes in mysteries, sometimes in revelations. It is a telegraphic language, which every woman understands, though written in hieroglyphics. Hence the preliminaries to wedlock, usually called courtships, are as various in their methods as the whims of the parties. In many parts of the world these methods are as amusing as they are singular.

In royal families matrimonial alliances are controlled by state policy, and the negotiations conducted through the agency of ministerial confidants. In some Oriental countries, parents contract their sons and daughters in mar-

riage while yet in their infancy, nor allow the parties an interview until of marriageable age, when the wedding ceremonies are performed, and the happy pair unveiled to behold each other for the first time. At such a moment "a penny for their thoughts" would be cheap enough. The philosophy of this absurd custom seems to be based on the classical idea that "love is blind." This may be true; yet blind though it be, the heart will always have its preference, and contrive some way or other to express it.

In some of the Molucca Islands, when a young man is too bashful to speak his love, he seizes the first opportunity that offers of sitting near the object of his affection, and tying his garments to hers. If she allows him to finish the knot, and neither cuts nor loosens it, she truly gives her consent to the marriage. If she merely loosens it, he is at liberty to try his luck again at a more propitious moment. But, if she cuts the knot, there is an end of hope.

In Lapland it is death to marry a girl without the consent of her friends. When a young man proposes marriage, the friends of both parties meet to witness a race between them. The girl is allowed, at starting, the advantage of a third part of the race; if her lover does not overtake her, it is a penal offence for him ever

to renew his offers of marriage. If the damsel favors his suit, she may run fast at first, to try his affection; but she will be sure to linger before she comes to the end of the race. In this way all marriages are made in accordance with inclination; and this is the probable reason of so much domestic contentment in that country.

In ancient times marriageable women were the subjects of bargain and sale, and were more generally obtained by purchase than courtship. The prices paid in some instances seem incredible, if not extortionate. Of course, "pearls of great price" were not to be had for the mere asking. Jacob purchased his wife, Rachel, at a cost of fourteen years' hard labor.

The Babylonians, who were a practical people, gathered their marriageable daughters, once a year, from every district of their country, and sold them at auction to bachelors, who purchased them for wives, while the magistrates presided at the sales. The sums of money thus received for the beautiful girls, were appropriated as doweries for the benefit of the less beautiful. Of course rich bachelors paid liberal prices for their choice; while poor bachelors, in accepting the less beautiful, generally obtained the best wives, with the addition of a handsome sum of money. In this way all parties were accommodated who aspired to matrimonial fe licity.

But in these modern times, most of our young men, instead of purchasing their wives, prefer to sell themselves at the highest price the market affords. Fortune-hunting is, therefore, regarded as legitimate. In the mind of a fast young man, wealth has a magical influence, which is sure to invest the possessor, if a marriageable young lady, however unattractive, with irresistible charms. If his preliminary inquiry, Is she rich? be answered in the affirmative, the siege commences at once. Art is so practised as to conceal art, and create, if possible, a favorable impression. An introduction is sought and obtained. Interview follows interview in quick succession. The declaration is made; the diamond ring presented, and graciously accepted; consent obtained, and the happy day set. Rumor reports an eligible match in high life, and the fashionable world is on tiptoe with expectation.

But, instead of its being an "affair of the heart," it is really a very different affair, — nothing but a hasty transaction in fancy stocks. And if the officiating clergyman were to employ an appropriate formula of words in celebrating the nuptials, he would address the parties thus, —

"Romeo, wilt thou have this delicate constitution, this bundle of silks and satins, this crock of gold, for thy wedded wife?" — "I will."

"Juliet, wilt thou have this false pretence, this profligate in broadcloth, this unpaid tailor's bill, for thy wedded husband?" — "I will."

The happy pair are then pronounced man and wife. And what is the result? A brief career of dissipation, a splendid misery, a reduction to poverty, domestic dissension, separation, and finally a divorce. But how different is the result, when an honest man, actuated by pure motives, marries a sincere woman, whose only wealth consists in her love and in her practical good sense.

It is man who degrades woman; not woman who degrades man. Asiatic monarchs have ever regarded woman, not as a companion, but as a toy, a picture, a luxury of the palace; while men of common rank throughout Asia, and in many parts of Europe, treat her as a slave, a drudge, a "hewer of wood and a drawer of water," and make it her duty to wait, instead of being waited on; to attend, instead of being attended. Out of this sordid idea of woman's destiny has grown, in all probability, the custom of regarding her as property. Influenced by this idea, there are still some persons to be found among the lower classes, even in our own country, who do not hesitate to sell, buy, or exchange their wives for a material consideration. Our American forefathers, in the early

settlement of Jamestown, purchased their wives from England, and paid in tobacco, at the rate of one hundred and fifty pounds each, and thought it a fair transaction. Perhaps this is the reason why ladies are so generally disgusted with the use of the "Virginia weed."

But the doctrine that woman was created the inferior of man, though venerable for its antiquity, is not less fallacious than venerable. It is simply an assertion which does not appear to be sustained by historical facts. It is true that woman is called in Scripture the "weaker vessel:" weaker in physical strength she may be, but it does not follow that she is weaker in mind, wit, judgment, shrewdness, tact, or moral power.

The sterner sex need not flatter themselves, therefore, that superiority of muscle necessarily implies superiority of mind. History sufficiently discloses the fact that woman has often proved herself not only a match, but an over-match for man, in wielding the sceptre, the sword, and the pen, to say nothing of the tongue. Illustrations of this great fact, like coruscations of light, sparkle along the darkened track of the ages, and abound in the living present.

But, in looking into the broad expanse of the historical past, we cannot attempt to do more than glance here and there at a particular star,

whose undiminished lustre has given it a name and a fame, not only glorious, but immortal. As in all ages there have been representative men, so in all ages there have been representative women, who crowned the age in which they lived with honor, and gave tone to its sentiment and character.

In the career of Semiramis, who lived about 1965 years before the Christian era, we have a crystallization of those subtile attributes of female character, which are not less remarkable for their diversity than extensive in their power and influence. It will be remembered that she was the reputed child of a goddess, a foundling exposed in a desert, fed for a year by doves, discovered by a shepherd, and adopted by him as his own daughter. When grown to womanhood, she married the governor of Nineveh, and assisted him in the siege and conquest of Bactria. The wisdom and tact which she manifested in this enterprise, and especially her personal beauty, attracted the attention of the king of Assyria, who mysteriously relieved her of her husband, obtained her hand in wedlock, resigned to her his crown, and declared her queen and sole empress of Assyria. The aspirations of Semiramis became at once unbounded; and, fearing her royal consort might repent the hasty step he had taken, she abruptly extin-

guished his life, and soon succeeded in distinguishing her own. She levelled mountains, filled up valleys, built aqueducts, commanded armies, conquered neighboring nations, penetrated into Arabia and Ethiopia, amassed vast treasures, founded many cities; and, wherever she appeared, spread terror and consternation. Under her auspices, and by means of her wealth, Babylon, the capital of her empire, became the most renowned and magnificent city in the world. Her might was invincible; her right she regarded as co-extensive with her power. Her prompt action was the secret of her success.

When she was informed, on one occasion, that Babylon had revolted, she left her toilette half-made, put herself at the head of an armed force, and instantly quelled the revolt. She was a woman of strong passions and of strong mind, and, what is now very uncommon, of strong nerves. And yet her peerless beauty and the fascination of her manners appear to have been as irresistible as the sway of her sceptre. The fatality of her personal charms, her inordinate love of power, and the evils which arise from the indulgence of vain aspirations, indicate the lessons which are taught by her career. In the twenty-fifth year of her reign, her life was suddenly terminated by the violent hand of her own son. After death she was transformed,

as it was believed, into a dove, under the symbol of which she received divine honors throughout Assyria.

It would seem that literary women were not less unknown in ancient times than at the present day. Sappho took her place in the galaxy of literary fame six hundred years before Christ. So sublime, and yet so sweet, were her lyric strains, that the Greeks pronounced her the tenth Muse. Longinus cites from her writings specimens of the sublime, and extols her genius as unrivalled. Beneficent as talented, she instituted an academy of music for young maidens; wrote nine books of lyric verse, and many other compositions of great merit. But of all her writings, however, only one or two of her odes have survived. Her fate was an unhappy one. She became violently enamoured of a young man of Mitylene, who was so ungallant as not to reciprocate her attachment; and, being reduced to a state of hopeless despair, she precipitated herself into the sea from the steep cliff of Leucate, ever since called the "Lover's Leap."

In this connection we ought not to omit the name of Aspasia, who, at a period two centuries later than Sappho, emerged like a star in a darkened sky, and charmed the age in which she lived with the fascinations of her

rhetoric. She was not less stately and queen-like in her person, than accomplished in her manners. It is said of her, that she possessed rhetorical powers which were unequalled by the public orators of her time. She was as learned as eloquent. Plato says she was the instructress of Socrates. She also instructed Pericles in the arts of oratory, and afterwards married him. He was largely indebted to her for his finish of education, and elegance of manners, for which he was so much distinguished.

So charming were Aspasia's conversational powers, that the Athenians sought every opportunity to introduce their wives into her presence, that they might learn from her the art of employing an elegant diction. On one occasion, when the Athenian army had been disheartened, she appeared in the public assembly of the people, and pronounced an oration which so thrilled their breasts as to inspire new hopes and induce them to rally and redeem their cause.

Among female sovereigns, but few have evinced more tact or talent in an emergency than Zenobia, queen of Palmyra. She was a native of Syria, a descendant of Ptolemy; married Odenatus, a Saracen, and, after his death, succeeded to the throne, about the year of our Lord 267. She had been highly educated;

wrote and spoke many different languages; had studied the beauties of Homer and Plato under the tuition of Longinus; and was not less renowned for her beauty, melody of voice, and elegance of manners, than for her heroic deeds. In the five years of her reign, she conducted many warlike expeditions, extended her empire, compelling Cappadocia, Bithynia, and Egypt to recognize her authority, and acknowledge her "Queen of the East," — a favorite title which she had assumed. Her power had now become so extended as to alarm the Roman Government for their own safety, who sent Aurelian with a formidable army to subjugate and reduce her empire to a province. Zenobia, after being defeated in two severe battles, retired with her forces to Palmyra, her capital; fortified it, and resolved never to surrender. Aurelian invested the city with his entire army, and, in the course of the siege, was severely wounded by an arrow; and being thus disabled, the progress of the siege was so far retarded as to give the citizens of Rome occasion to utter against him bitter invectives, and to question the character of the "arrow" that had pierced him. In other words, they accused him of complicity. In his letter of self-justification to the Senate, he says, "The Roman people speak with contempt of the war I am waging against a woman.

They are ignorant of the character and of the power of Zenobia. It is impossible to enumerate her warlike preparations of stones and arrows, and every species of missile weapons. The walls of the city are strongly guarded, and artificial fires are thrown from her military engines. The fear of punishment has armed her with desperate courage. Still I trust in the gods for a favorable result."

In this letter the stern and proud Roman general frankly admits the might of woman. Feeling humiliated, and almost despairing of success, he now attempted to procure a surrender of the city by negotiation, and offered the most liberal advantages to the queen. In her reply, she said to him, "It is not by negotiation, but by arms, that the submission you require of me can be obtained." This laconic reply was certainly worthy of a heroine and of a queen. Yet, after a protracted and desperate defence, and finding that her allies, instead of coming to her relief as they promised, had accepted bribes from the enemy to remain at a distance, she saw that all was lost; and, mounting her fleetest dromedary, sought to escape into Persia; but was overtaken on the banks of the Euphrates and captured. When brought into the presence of her conqueror, and asked how she dared resist the power of Rome, she replied, "Because I recognize Aurelian alone as my sovereign."

Zenobia was sent to Rome to grace the triumph of Aurelian. She entered the city on foot, preceded by her own chariot, with which she had designed, in the event of having won the victory, to make her grand entry into Rome as the triumphant "Queen of the East." But the fortunes of war subverted her ambitious scheme, and subjected her to the mortification of gracing a Roman triumph. Yet for this indignity she felt that she was somewhat compensated in knowing that her appearance in Rome would create a sensation. In the grand procession she followed her chariot, so laden with jewels and chains of gold as to require the support of a slave to prevent her from fainting beneath the weight.

After enjoying the satisfaction of a triumph, Aurelian treated his beautiful captive with kind consideration, and provided for her a delightful residence on the banks of the Tiber, where she passed the remainder of her days, honored by all as a matron of rare virtue and accomplishments. She lived to educate her daughters, and to see them contract noble alliances. Her descendants were ranked among the first citizens of Rome, and did not become extinct until after the fifth century.

Near the commencement of the fifteenth century, there appeared in France a brilliant

meteor, — a youthful maiden, whose development of character was as mystical as it was heroic. Joan of Arc was born of obscure parents, in an obscure village on the borders of Lorraine, and was bred in a school of simplicity. She possessed beauty, united with an amiable temper and generous sympathies. In her religious faith she was sincere, even angelic. Her love of country was ardent and irrepressible. Finding her countrymen distracted by a bitter partisan feeling, she identified herself with the patriots, and desired to secure the coronation of Prince Charles, as the only means, in her belief, of restoring the authority of the legitimate government. The reigning king had become hopelessly demented, and anarchy prevailed in almost every part of his dominions.

The rival houses of Orleans and Burgundy were contending for the supremacy, and had entered upon a career of murder and massacre, instead of adopting a regular system of warfare. Both parties invoked the aid of the English, and an army was accordingly sent from England; but, instead of relieving either of the contending parties, their interference only imposed still weightier calamities on the country. At this crisis a prophecy became current among the people, that a virgin would appear, and rid France of her enemies. This prophecy reached

the ear of Joan of Arc, and inspired her with the belief that she was the chosen one of Heaven to accomplish the work.

In confirmation of this belief, she heard mysterious voices which came to her in her dreams, and which she regarded as divine communications, directing her to enter upon her great mission. On conferring with her parents in relation to the matter, they advised her to abandon her mad scheme, and desired her to marry and remain with them in her native village; but she declined, insisting that the current prediction — "France shall be saved by a virgin" — alluded to her. The English army had already besieged Orleans, and all hope of saving the city seemed lost. Her friends, regarding her as endowed with supernatural powers, provided her with a war-horse and a military costume, and sent her with an escort to the court of Prince Charles, whom she had never seen, but whose cause she had espoused.

He received her with distrust, though he desired her proffered assistance. In order to avoid being charged with having faith in sorcery, he handed her over to a commission of ecclesiastics, to ascertain whether she was inspired of Heaven, or instigated by an evil spirit. Among other tests, the ecclesiastics desired her to perform miracles. She replied, "Bring me to Or-

leans and you shall witness a miracle; the siege shall be raised, and Prince Charles shall be crowned king at Rheims." They approved her project, and she received the rank of a military commander.

She then demanded a mysterious sword which she averred had been concealed by a hero of the olden time within the walls of an ancient church. On search being made, the sword was found and delivered to her. In a short time, with this mysterious sword in hand, she appeared at the head of an enthusiastic army, within sight of the besieged city of Orleans. The English army was astonished at the novel apparition. She advanced, and demanded a surrender of the city, but was indignantly refused; yet the citizens of Orleans were elate with joy at the prospect of relief. Joan boldly assaulted the outposts, and carried them. The besieged citizens, who had escaped outside the walls, now rallied under her banner, and swelled the ranks of her army. Fort after fort was captured. The English fought with desperation. Joan, cheering on her brave forces, and calling on them to follow, seized a scaling-ladder, and ascended the enemy's breastworks, when she was pierced with an arrow in the shoulder, and fell into the fosse. Her undaunted followers rescued her; when she, seeing her banner in

danger, though faint and bleeding, rushed forward, seized and bore it off in triumph. The English army, amazed at this, and believing her more than human, became panic-stricken, and retreated in confusion. In their flight they lost their commander and many of their bravest men. Thus, in one week after her arrival at Orleans, she compelled the English to abandon the siege. In truth, she had performed a miracle, as her countrymen believed, and as she had promised the ecclesiastics she would do. For this brilliant achievement she acquired the title, "Maid of Orleans."

In addition to this, she subsequently fought several severe battles with the English, and defeated them. Even the sight of her approaching banner often terrified the enemy into a surrender. In less than three months from the commencement of her career, she saw Prince Charles crowned king at Rheims. In gratitude for her pre-eminent and timely services in his cause, Charles issued his royal edict ennobling her and her family. Not long after this, the opposing faction of King Charles captured the Maid of Orleans, as she was now called, and imprisoned her in a strong fortress. She attempted to escape by leaping the walls, but was secured, and transferred to the custody of the English. The University of Paris, at the instance

of dominant ecclesiastics, demanded her trial on the charge of sorcery and the assumption of divine powers. Her judges, intolerant as the priests, condemned her to be burnt at the stake. Her friends were overawed, and failed to interfere in her behalf. The only condition in her sentence was recantation, and the acknowledgment of the supremacy of the Church. In view of so terrific a death, she recanted; but hearing the mysterious voices of her former dreams upbraid her, she re-asserted her faith in her divine mission; was again seized at the instance of the priesthood, and the cruel sentence of death at the stake carried into execution.

Never did a sadder fate overtake an innocent, patriotic, and noble-hearted woman. Her only crime was her love for her country, and her contempt for ecclesiastical assumption. Her purity of life was never questioned. It was said of her that she never allowed a profane word to be uttered in her presence. Her religion was a religion of the heart, too exalted for the times in which she lived. So sincere was the belief of the populace in her sanctity, that many persons made pilgrimages from every part of the empire to touch her garments; believing, that, if they could be allowed the privilege, they would be specially blessed, both in this life and in the life to come.

There was no woman of the sixteenth century, perhaps, who was more conspicuous or more talented than Elizabeth, queen of England. Highly educated in the ancient and modern languages, as well as in philosophy, she embraced at an early age the Protestant faith, and in consequence of the religious jealousies of the times, encountered great opposition in her advent to the throne; and, while yet in her girlhood, suffered a long imprisonment in the Tower by order of her sister Mary, who was at that time the reigning queen. But events which transpired in 1558 resulted in the elevation of Elizabeth to the throne, at the age of twenty-five. So fearful were the Catholics of her influence in matters of faith that they sent to her a distinguished ecclesiastic, who demanded from her a declaration of her religious creed. To this intrusive demand she, being an adept at rhyming, replied impromptu, —

> "Christ was the word that spake it;
> He took the bread and brake it;
> And what that word did make it,
> That I believe, and take it."

So frank and faultless was this avowal that it confounded the artful priest, who, feeling rebuked, went away as wise as he came, if not a little wiser.

In her personal appearance Elizabeth was stately and majestic, but by no means remarkable for her beauty, or amiableness of temper. Her good judgment and discrimination enabled her to call to her aid wise men for ministers and counsellors. She patronized talent and intellect. It was during her reign that Spenser, Shakspeare, Raleigh, Bacon, and other eminent characters, flourished, giving to her times and to literature the distinction of the "Elizabethan age." The leading events of her reign amply attest her capacity to grapple with emergencies in sustaining her prerogatives and in maintaining the defiant attitude of England. She loved money as well as power, and, though penurious, wielded her power with decision; crushed domestic rebellion at a blow; removed her fears of Mary, queen of Scots, by consigning her to the block; defied the power of Spain, and, with the timely assistance of a providential whirlwind, sank the Spanish Armada in the depths of the sea.

Though unattractive, her charms induced sundry propositions of marriage, particularly from the king of Sweden, from the king of Spain, and from a young prince of France, twenty-five years younger than herself. For this young prince, it is said, she entertained a sincere attachment, and went so far as to place

publicly on his finger a costly ring as a pledge of their union; but being overtaken soon afterwards by some strange whimsicality, dismissed him, and thus gave him leisure to reflect on the vanity of human aspirations. Yet, like most artful women, she delighted in flirtations, and always retained in her retinue a few special favorites, among whom were the Earls of Leicester and of Essex. On these men she bestowed official positions of high rank, and evidently desired to make great men of them; but Leicester proved to be destitute of brains, and Essex turned traitor, and was finally executed.

When advised to marry by her counsellors, she replied that she could not indulge such a thought for a moment; for she had resolved that the inscription on her tombstone should be, —

"Here lies a queen who lived and died a virgin."

In her seventieth year she died of grief, it is said, for having signed the death-warrant of Essex, for whom she entertained a sincere, yet "untold love."

The events of her reign wrought great changes in the destinies of nations. By her firm adherence to the Protestant faith, she contributed much towards enlarging and strengthening the foundations of civil and religious

liberty. She succeeded by her wisdom and diplomacy in circumventing the subtile machinations of rival powers. In few words, it may be said of her, that she was a noble specimen of *manly womanhood.*

Catharine I., empress of Russia, was born of obscure parentage, near the close of the seventeenth century. In girlhood she was known by the name of Martha, until she embraced the Greek religion, when her name was changed to Catharine. Her father died when she was but three years old, and left her to the care of an invalid mother, in reduced circumstances. When old enough to be useful, Catharine devoted her services to the care and support of her mother, and, in attaining to womanhood, grew to be exceedingly beautiful. Her mother had instructed her in the rudiments of a common education, which she afterwards perfected under the tuition of a neighboring clergyman. Among other accomplishments, Catharine acquired a knowledge of music and dancing, and soon became as attractive for her elegance of manners as she was celebrated for her beauty.

In 1701 she married a Swedish dragoon, and immediately accompanied him to the military post assigned him in the war which had just broken out between Sweden and Russia. In a a battle which soon followed, she was taken

prisoner by the Russians. Her personal charms soon attracted the attention of Peter the Great. What became of her husband is not known, but may be imagined. At any rate, the emperor succeeded in winning her affections, acknowledged her as his wife, and placed the imperial diadem on her head, and the sceptre in her hand. She soon proved herself to be a woman of wonderful tact, shrewdness, and judgment, and obtained an unbounded influence over her husband. In fact, her advice controlled his action; and in following it, he acquired the enviable and lasting title of "Peter the Great." Like her, thousands of women have made their husbands great men, and often out of very indifferent materials.

After Peter's death Catharine was proclaimed empress and autocrat of all the Russias. Her reign, though short, was brilliant. Her frailties, if she had any, were few, and ought to be attributed to the character of her favorites rather than to herself. She died at the early age of forty-two, after a brief reign of a little less than two years as sole empress. Her native endowments constituted her brightest jewels, — modesty, simplicity, and beauty. It was these angelic gifts which elevated her from the obscurity of rural life to the throne of a great empire.

Here let us turn from the Old World to the New, and look into the parlor, instead of the palace, for specimens of true womanhood. It is in the private walks of life, in the domestic and social circles, that we must look, if we would contemplate the character of woman in its purest and proudest development. It is in her daily exhibition of heart, soul, sympathy, generosity, and devotion, that woman attains to perfection, and crowns herself with a diadem. Everywhere in this great Republic are thousands of women whose excellence of character challenges our admiration. Among those who have passed into the better life, and whose names are recorded on the tablet of every American heart, is Martha Washington.

In her character we have the character of an accomplished American lady. Few, if any, have ever excelled her. When the war of the Revolution commenced, she accompanied her husband, who had just been appointed commander-in-chief of the American armies, to the military lines about Boston, and witnessed the siege and evacuation of that city. She was ever the guardian spirit of the general, and aided him materially in his military career by her wise counsels and timely attentions. While he reasoned logically and deliberately, she came to logical conclusions instantly, without seem-

ing to reason, a facility of logic which characterizes almost every woman.

In her figure Martha was slight; in her manners easy and graceful; in her temper, mild, yet cheerful; in her conversation, calm, yet fascinating; in her looks, beautiful, especially in her youthful days. So universally admired and respected was she, that everybody spoke of her as "Lady Washington."

She did the honors of the presidential mansion with polished ease, dignity, and grace. Her connubial life with Washington was not less exemplary than it was happy. His regard for her was as profound as her devotion to him was sincere. So solicitous was she for preserving his good name and fame, that, immediately after his death, she destroyed all the domestic letters which he had addressed to her, for fear they might, some day, be published, and be found to contain some word or expression of a political nature which might be construed to his prejudice.

Faithful as a wife, as a friend, and as a Christian, she proved herself a model woman. She survived her husband but two years, and died at the age of seventy. In life she occupied a position which queens might envy; and in death, bequeathed a memory which will be cherished in a nation's heart, when the proud

monuments of kings and queens have crumbled into dust and been forgotten.

If time would permit us, and if it could be done without making invidious distinctions, it would be no less delightful than instructive to refer specifically to the names and deeds of many other American women who have graced the age in which they lived, and added lustre to the annals of our Republic. But we must content ourselves by alluding to them in general terms; and, in doing this, we must admit the fact, that the noble deeds and exalted virtues of woman occupy a much less space in the world's history than they ought.

It is sufficiently evident to everybody that women, in all the relations of life, exhibit a keener appreciation of right and wrong than men. Hence they are usually the first to approve what is right, and the last to concur in what is wrong. It was this devotion to principle which induced American women in the days of the Revolution to submit to the severest trials and deprivations, while they encouraged their sons, husbands, and brothers, to go forth to the battle-field in defence of their country. In proof of their patriotism, these noble women, with their own hands and with cheerful hearts, spun, wove, knit, and baked for the brave and suffering soldiers; and even made an offering

of their jewels on the altar of liberty; and rather than see the enemy enriched by traffic and unjust revenues, complacently approved the policy which cast rich cargoes of their favorite beverage into the depths of the sea.

It was the same spirit, the same patriotism, which inspired the women of our own times, on a still broader scale, in the late struggle of the North to crush the rebellion of the South, and sustain in all its purity, its honor, and its glory, the dear old flag of the Union. This great work has been done manfully and nobly, and at immense sacrifices of treasure and of blood; but it could not have been done without the aid and encouragement of woman. It was woman who held the key and unlocked the hearts of twenty millions of people, and induced them, by her pleading appeals, to pour out their noble charities, as from floodgates, to supply the urgent needs of the largest and the bravest army the world ever beheld. It was woman, whose delicate hand nursed the sick, the wounded, and the dying soldier, and whose sympathies and prayers soothed and cheered his departing spirit.

In the Sanitary Commission, in the Christian Commission, woman was the master-spirit, the angel of mercy, the music of whose hovering wings animated the weary march of our gallant

volunteers, and inspired their souls with invincible courage. It is woman who weaves the only wreath of honor which a true-hearted hero desires to wear on his brow, and the only one worthy of his highest aspirations. It is an indisputable fact that the power, the patriotism, and the influence of woman, constitute the great moral elements of our Republic, and of our civil and religious institutions.

It is the educated and accomplished women of our country who have refined the men, as well as the youth of the land, and given tone to public sentiment. It is this class of women who have purified our literature, and moulded it to harmonize with the pure principles of a Christian philosophy. In the fine arts, and even in the abstruse sciences, women have excelled as well as men. In the catalogue of distinguished authors there are to be found, both in this country and in Europe, nearly as many women as men. From the facts which we have already adduced, it is evident enough that woman, in the exercise of intellectual, if not political power, is fully the equal of man, while in tact and shrewdness she is generally his superior. According to the old, but truthful saying, it is impossible for a man to outwit a shrewd woman; and, instead of asking what can a woman do, we should ask, what is there a woman cannot do?

Whenever women are left to take care of themselves in the world, as thousands are, they should not only have the right, but it is their duty, to engage in any of the industrial pursuits for which they are fitted. The principal difference between man and woman is physical strength; and, for this reason, the lighter employments should be assigned to women. In whatever employment men are out of place, women should take their place; especially in retailing fancy goods, in book-keeping, in telegraphing, in type-setting, in school-teaching, and in many other like employments; nor need they be excluded from the learned professions. In fact, we already have lady clergymen, and lady physicians; and doubtless the character of the bar would be much elevated by the admission of lady lawyers; nor can we doubt but that they would excel in prosecuting suits commenced by "attachment," if not in every other class of cases.

If women choose to compete with men in any of the learned professions, or in any other pursuit, and are fitted to achieve success, there is nothing in the way to prevent them; yet it does not follow that they can take the places of men in every thing, especially in those employments which require masculine strength and great physical endurance. Nor does it follow

that women who pay taxes should therefore have the right of suffrage. The fact that they hold property does not change their *status*, nor does it confer political rights.

The right of suffrage is a political right, and not a natural right. The exercise of this political right carries with it the law-making power, the duty of protecting persons and property, and consequently of maintaining and defending the government. They who make the government are therefore bound to defend it. Nature never intended that women should become soldiers, and face the cannon's mouth in the battle-field; nor did she give them strength to construct railroads, tunnel mountains, build war-ships, or man them. Yet women, prompted by affection or romantic sentiment, have been known to become soldiers in disguise, and perhaps have fought bravely in the battle-field; but this, of itself, proves nothing: it is merely an exception to a general rule; or, in other words, an eccentricity of character. In all ages of the world, as we have shown, the mere force of circumstances has occasionally unsphered woman, and placed her in unnatural situations, in which she has sometimes achieved a brilliant success, — on the throne and off the throne, in peace and in war, in political life and in social life. Yet in stepping out of her sphere, whatever may be

her success, every true woman feels that she "o'ersteps the modesty of nature."

When woman glides into her natural position, — that of a wife, — it is then only that she occupies her appropriate sphere, and exhibits in its most attractive form the loveliness of her character. Marriage is an institution as essential to the stability and harmony of the social system as gravity is to the order and preservation of the planetary system. In the domestic circle, the devoted wife becomes the centre of attraction, the "angel of the household." Her world is her home; her altar, the hearthstone. In her daily ministrations, she makes herself angelic by making home a heaven, and every one happy who may come within the "charmed circle" of her kind cares and generous sympathies. In fact, there is no place like home, "sweet home," when on its sacred altar burns the blended incense of harmonious souls, —

> "Two souls with but a single thought,
> Two hearts that beat as one."

It is certain that man and woman were never created to live independent of each other. They are but counterparts, and therefore incomplete until united in wedlock. Hence they who prefer single blessedness are justly chargeable with the "sin of omission," if not the "unpar-

donable sin." It is difficult to estimate the fearful responsibilities of those fossilized bachelors who persist in sewing on their own buttons and in mending their own stockings. Yet these selfish gentlemen frankly admit that there may have been such a thing as "true love" in the olden times; but now, say they, the idea has become obsolete; and if a bachelor were to ask a young lady to share his lot, she would immediately want to know how large the "lot" is, and what is its value. In further justification, they quote Socrates, who, being asked whether it were better for a man to marry or live single, replied, "Let him do either, and he will repent it." But this is not argument, nor is it always true, even in a sordid marriage, as appears in the following instance. Not long since, in New York, a bachelor of twenty-two married a rich maiden of fifty-five, who died within a month after the nuptials, and left him a half million of dollars. He says he has never "repented" the marriage.

The age in which we live is one of experiment and of novel theories, both in religion and in politics. In modern spiritualism we have entranced women, who give us reports from the dead. In modern crusades we have devout women, who visit tippling-houses, and convert them into sanctuaries of prayer. In politics we

have mismated and unmated women, who hold conventions, clamor for the ballot, and advocate the doctrine of "natural selection."

It is true that every marriageable woman has a natural right to select, if not elect, a husband; and this she may and ought to do, not by ballot, but by the influence of her charms and her virtues. If all marriageable men and women were but crystallized into happy families, earth would soon become a paradise. Yet, if this were done, I doubt not there would still remain some "strong-minded" women, who would get up a convention to reform paradise. The truth is, the women will do pretty much as they please, and the best way is to let them.

Yet all must admit that a woman of refinement is not only a ruling spirit, but "a power behind the throne greater than the power on the throne." Her rights are, therefore, within her own grasp. Among these, she has the right, and to her belongs the responsible duty, of educating her children in first principles, and in those sanctified lessons which have been revealed to man from Heaven. It is the mother's precepts which constitute the permanent foundation of the child's future character. Hence no woman is really competent to discharge the responsible duties of a mother as she ought, unless she has first been properly educated.

There can be no object more deserving of commiseration, perhaps, than a mother who is surrounded by a family of young children, and yet is so ignorant as to be unable to instruct them in the rudiments of a common school education, and in the fundamental principles of a Christian life. The character of every child, it may be assumed, is essentially formed at seven years of age. The mother of Washington knew this, and felt it, and, in the education of her son, taught him at an early age the leading truths of Christianity. She took the Bible for her guide, and taught him to take the Bible for his guide. His subsequent career proves that he adhered to the instructions of his mother. When he came to pay her a visit, at the close of the war, after an absence of seven long years, she received him, with the overflowing heart of a mother, as her dutiful son, and thought of him, only as a dutiful son; never uttering a word in reference to the honors he had won as a military chieftain.

Soon after this, Gen. Lafayette, wishing to make the acquaintance of the mother of Washington before returning to France, called at her residence in Virginia, and introduced himself. He found her at work in the garden, clad in a homespun dress, and her gray head covered with a plain straw hat. She saluted him kindly,

and calmly remarked, "Ah, Marquis, you see an old woman; but come, I can make you welcome in my poor dwelling without the parade of changing my dress." In the course of conversation Lafayette complimented her as the mother of a son who had achieved the independence of his country, and acquired lasting honors for himself. The old lady, without the least manifestation of gratified pride, simply responded, "I am not surprised at what George has done, for he was always a very good boy." What a noble response, in its moral grandeur, was this? Certain it is that such a mother was worthy of such a son. A monument, plain, yet expressive in its design, has been erected at Fredericksburg, to her memory. It bears this simple, yet sublime inscription, —

"Mary, the Mother of Washington."

The extent of woman's moral power can only be limited by the extent of her capacities. In every circle, whether domestic, social, or political, the accomplished woman is a central power, — *imperium in imperio;* and, though she may not directly exercise the right of suffrage, yet her influence and her counsels, even an expression of her wish, enable her to control the political, as well as the social destinies of men and of nations. It is in this way that she may

"have her way." It was the accomplished wife of Mr. Monroe who made him President of the United States. She was the first to propose his name as a candidate. Her influence with members of Congress induced them to concur in advocating his election. He was elected. His administration, as we all know, was distinguished as "the era of good feeling."

The prevalent idea that women need less education than men, is a gross error, worthy of heathendom perhaps, but entirely unworthy of Christendom. Let women be as generally and as liberally educated as men, and, my word for it, the question of women's rights would soon settle itself. The right of women to be thus educated cannot be doubted, because it is a divine right, and because God has made woman the maternal teacher of mankind, and the chief cornerstone of the social fabric. Yet she should be educated with reference to her proper sphere as woman, — a sphere which is higher than that of man in the economy of Nature. Her capacities for industrial pursuits, such as are consistent with her physical abilities, should be developed so that she may be qualified to provide for herself, and to sustain herself in life's battle, if need be, without the aid of a "companion in arms."

Nevertheless, marriage is one of heaven's

irrevocable laws. It is, in fact, the great law of all animal life, and even of plant life. Nowhere in nature is there a single instance in which this law is not obeyed, in due time, except in the case of mankind. Why is this? It certainly would not be so if it were not for some grand defect in our social system, — some false notions acquired by education, which are peculiar to our civilization, and which induce apostasy to truth and natural justice. Man was created to be the protector of woman, and woman to be the help-meet of man. Each, therefore, has an appropriate sphere; and the obligations of each are mutual, growing out of their mutual interests and dependence. The sphere of the one is just as important as the sphere of the other. Neither can live, nor ought to live, without the aid, the love, and the sympathy of the other. Whether so disposed or not, neither can commit an infraction of the other's rights, without violating a law of Nature.

Whatever may be the evils of our present social or political system, it is evident that the right of suffrage, if extended to woman, could not afford a remedy; but, on the contrary, would tend to weaken, rather than strengthen, mutual interests, by creating unwomanly aspirations and domestic dissensions, thus sundering the ties of love and affection which naturally

exist between the sexes. In a word, it would be opening Pandora's box, and letting escape the imps of social and political discord, and finally result in universal misrule, if not in positive anarchy.

Modesty and delicacy are the crowning characteristics of a true woman. She naturally shrinks from the storms of political strife. Give her the right of suffrage, — a boon no sensible woman desires, — place her in office, in the halls of legislation, in the Presidential chair; enrobe her with the judicial ermine; or make her the executive officer of a criminal tribunal; and how could she assume the tender relations of a mother, and at the same time officiate in either of these high places of public trust, in which the sternest and most inflexible duties are often required to be performed?

It is not possible, however, that the erratic comets, whose trailing light occasionally flashes athwart our political sky, will ever acquire sufficient momentum to jostle the "fixed stars" out of place, because there is a fixed law of Nature which preserves them in place. There is also a law of Nature which makes man not only the protector, but the worshipper of woman, — a worship which is as instinctively paid as reciprocated; and which is by no means inconsistent with the worship of God, but, in truth,

is a part of it. It is this kind of worship, this natural and holy impulse of the heart, which constitutes the basis of man's rights, and of woman's rights, and should harmonize all their relations in life.

We see the instinctive exhibition of man's reverence for woman almost every day of our lives, and often in a way that proves how ridiculous are modern theories in regard to woman's rights, when brought to the test in practical life. Not long since, in one of our cities where a woman's-rights convention was in session, a strong-minded female delegate entered a street-railway car, when an old gentleman rose to give her his seat; but, at the moment, suspecting her to be a delegate, asked, "Be you one of these women's righters?" — "I am." — "You believe a woman should have all the rights of a man?" — "Yes, I do." — "Then stand up and enjoy them like a man." And stand up she did, — the old gentleman coolly resuming his seat, to the great amusement of the other passengers.

Whatever may be the pretensions of agitators, it is certain that no woman of refined culture, or of proper self-respect, will attempt to step outside of her appropriate sphere. This she cannot do if she would, without doing violence to the sensibilities of her nature. When true

to herself, woman, like the lily of the valley, prefers the valley, where she can display her native loveliness in comparative retirement, secure from the inclemencies of a frowning sky; while man, born with a more rugged nature, prefers, like the sturdy oak, to climb the hills and the mountains, where he delights to breast the assaults of storm and tempest, and to fling the shadow of his stately form over the valley, as if to protect the ethereal beauty of the lily from the too ardent gaze of the sun. And, though a solitary flower may sometimes be seen climbing the mountain height, it is only the modest lily of the valley, the true woman, whose approving smile man aspires to share, and whose virtue and purity call into exercise his noblest and holiest sympathies.

"Honored be woman! she beams on the sight,
Graceful and fair as an angel of light;
Scatters around her, wherever she strays,
Roses of bliss on our thorn-covered ways;
Roses of Paradise, sent from above,
To be gathered and twined in a garland of love!"

EDUCATION AND ITS ERRORS.

EDUCATION AND ITS ERRORS.

It is the welfare of society, rather than that of the individual, which is sought to be promoted by a system of popular education. Every part of the social fabric should be fitted to its place, and go into place like the materials in Solomon's temple, without the sound of the hammer. Yet a refined civilization cannot be attained without first securing a liberal mental culture of the masses.

Nature, as if inspired by a divine instinct, is ever engaged in refining her materials. The laws by which she works are as applicable to mind as to matter. In man we see both mind and matter combined — two natures: the intellectual and the physical. But in order to learn what we are, and what we should be, we must first understand the relations in which we are placed. In attempting to do this, we must study man as well as nature, and advance step by step, if we would achieve the highest attainments of which we are capable.

He only is a man, in the true sense, whose mental, moral, and physical capacities have been

fully developed. To be "twenty-one years of age and six feet high" does not, of itself, constitute a man. He must attain to something more than this. He must have the head and the heart and the soul of a man. He must appreciate the true character of his position, and have the moral courage to discharge his duties; in short, he must live for others as well as for himself; act from generous impulses, and, in all he does, yield to "the divinity that stirs within him," if he would comprehend the import of his godlike destiny.

The highway to knowledge, though rugged, is equally free and open to all. Whoever will may enter the temple of Nature, interrogate her face to face, unlock her treasures, appropriate her wealth, and subject her subtile agencies to human service. This the nineteenth century has already done to a considerable extent. Thus far it has been a bold century, and has taken many bold steps: it has "knocked holes through the blind walls" of the last ten centuries, and exposed to daylight the "moles and the bats" of antiquity; and still it demands more light. Such is the spirit of the age, — a demand for naked truth in all its beautiful proportions. Never, until this nineteenth century, have the masses really discovered their mission, — the great fact that they were created to think

as well as work, and to govern as well as be governed. And yet the world may be regarded as still in its infancy; nor has the human mind, as compared with its possibilities, emerged from its cradle, or even thrown off its swaddling garments.

Though capable of sublime achievements, man, at birth, is not only one of the most helpless, but one of the most ignorant specimens of animal existence. It is said by physiologists that an infant can neither smile nor shed a tear until forty days old. In his infancy the world to him is but a panorama of strange objects. In due time, however, he discovers that he has every thing to learn, and needs to learn every thing before he can comprehend himself or wield the power which Heaven has assigned him.

The degree of culture required to render man what he should be — godlike in his character — admits of no compromise with ignorance, superstition, or sectarianism; but, on the contrary, involves the necessity of establishing and sustaining such an educational system as will be adapted to the needs of the masses, and work in accordance with the laws of matter and of mind.

It is to the masses that our country must look for her best material and for her future intellectual

giants. In every age of the world more or less great men have been produced. At a time when most needed our own country produced a Washington, a Jefferson, and a Franklin, who distinguished themselves and the age in which they lived, — the age which gave birth to human rights. At a later period appeared a Jackson, a Clay, and a Webster, — the defenders of the Constitution and of the Union, — who have left behind them a brilliant record. But, notwithstanding their conservative efforts, there came a spirit of reform, sowing dragon-teeth, which soon sprang to life, and filled the land with armed heroes, who bravely met in deadly conflict, and decided forever the great question of human freedom; and consequently we now have, instead of a few, a great many men of world-wide renown, who have made for themselves and for their country a proud history.

In order to preserve our liberties we must have men of large hearts and wise heads, — men who can wear the armor of giants because they are giants. In short, we must recognize the great fact that every child in the land has a God-given right to an education, — a right which no parent should be allowed to sell for "a mess of pottage." Our national watchword should be "Education;" and the system should be so constructed as to reach all classes of youth by methods not only efficient but attractive.

It will be said by some, perhaps, that it is quite impossible to educate the masses in the higher branches of learning, unless they be withdrawn from the indispensable labors of the field and the workshop, and thus be compelled to neglect the industrial pursuits on which they must depend for their physical comforts, — bread, raiment, and shelter. However plausible this objection may seem, it certainly does not afford a sufficient reason why the facilities of acquiring a good education should not be equally extended to all classes.

Manual labor and a high degree of intelligence are by no means incompatible; but, on the contrary, must be associated, in order to achieve great or brilliant results. It is true, however, that the physical wants of man must first be supplied, before you can proceed successfully with the cultivation of his intellectual powers. The fact is every day exemplified, that bread is much easier gained by an intelligent than by an ignorant laborer. Whatever faith may do, it is certain that science and labor must be combined if we would either tunnel or "remove mountains;" and though native talent may have been distributed with more liberality to some than to others, all are under the highest obligations to improve such as they have, whether it be one talent or twenty talents.

The farmer, the mechanic, the merchant, and even the busy housewife, have more or less leisure hours, — long winter evenings, holidays, and sabbath days, amounting to nearly half a lifetime, — which might, with great profit, be employed in the acquisition of useful knowledge, through the medium of choice books and interchange of thought. Indeed, almost every one who has received a common-school education may so improve the fragments of time which fall in his way as to acquire, in the course of an ordinary lifetime, a pretty thorough acquaintance with the sciences, and with general literature.

Though our leisure hours may seem too few to be worth improving, yet it is by saving pennies that we accumulate wealth. Surprising as it may seem, there are within the allotted age of man, ten years of sabbaths when taken in the aggregate; ample time, one would suppose, for perfecting, in a good degree at least, his intellectual and moral culture. If mankind were as orthodox in their actions as they profess to be in their creeds, the moral regeneration of the world would soon be accomplished. One of the most formidable barriers in the way of human advancement is the faith we have derived, not from revelation, but from the blind interpretation of it. A true theology and a

sound philosophy can never come in conflict. In this enlightened age, it is absurd to expect that science will confine her inquiries within the circumference of a circle, or so modify her annunciations of truth as to coincide with the mystical traditions which have been handed down to us from a remote antiquity.

As an encouragement to the friends of popular education, the fact should not be overlooked, that the masses have been, to a great extent, relieved from the necessity of constant toil by the introduction of modern machinery. In fact, genius has conquered time, and given time to the masses. It has broken the fetters that bound them, and thus afforded them leisure for self-culture, social intercourse, and the investigation of truth.

It is the magic power of genius which has given life and brain to machinery, and which compels it to perform the hard work of the factory, of the workshop, of the farm, and of the household. In almost every department of industry, machinery does the hard work. It spins and weaves and knits. It saws and planes and wields the hammer. It reaps and mows and thrashes. It churns and washes and plies the needle. In fact, it does nearly every thing else for us, except to breathe, eat, and digest our food. It was the inventive genius of

our Northern people, the legitimate growth of our common-school system, that produced, at the moment when wanted, iron-clads, monster cannon, and Greek fire; and, in the sequel, saved the Union, and overawed the powers of Europe. It was these warlike inventions which secured us the elements of a lasting peace, and the respect of the civilized world.

It may be truly said that we now live longer in ten years than our ancestors did in twenty, and accomplish twenty times as much. Still it is not possible for any one man to know and do every thing. Men of genius are specialties, seldom or never universalities. Hence a diversity of talent naturally dictates a division of labor. And yet American genius, if not universal, must be acknowledged eminently inventive and practical. The Americans have made, we may venture to assert, more valuable discoveries in the last half century than all the world besides. The reason why this is so may be attributed to the operation of a physical law, in connection with the effect of a liberal system of popular education. The Americans are a mixed race, made up of all nations, and have been improved and elevated, as a race, by transfusion of blood, which has resulted in producing increased activity of brain, with new modes of thought, and new exhibitions of intellectual power.

UNIV. OF CALIFORNIA

But notwithstanding this peculiarity of character, there still remains, as it seems to me, one great and glaring error in the prevailing system of American education. This error consists in our neglecting to develop more fully the physical man, through the instrumentalities of systematic labor combined with systematic study. In many of the German States, if not in all, the plan of educating youth is much more sensible and philosophical than in this country. There they combine daily labor with daily study; and the result is, that the youth of Germany acquire vigor of body and vigor of mind at the same time. From youth to manhood they are taught to regard labor as honorable, and they feel that it is so. Hence the Germans are characterized, as a race, by the possession of an iron constitution, and by a mental energy which enables them to meet the stern realities of life, not only with fortitude, but with a spirit that never yields to adversity. No country has ever produced a more athletic or a more enduring race than Germany; nor has any country produced finer scholars in every branch of human learning, especially in philosophy and in classical literature.

But in this country it may be difficult, perhaps impracticable, to establish an educational system of this character, to any considerable

extent, for the reason that we are, for the most part, an agricultural people, who do not concentrate in hamlets, like the peasantry of Europe; but prefer to occupy many acres, and to distribute ourselves over a vast expanse of territory; and what is more, have a way of our own in all we do. The truth is, Young America does not like work. He prefers fine clothes and fast horses, and apes the man before he is a man. And yet he assumes to know every thing, and to do every thing — except work. These peculiarities in the character of Young America seem to have been generated by the spirit of our free institutions. Whether too much freedom, or too little freedom, is the greater evil, presents a grave question. Whatever may be the cause, it is evident that we, as a people, are degenerating into a nation of speculators.

Almost every man, now-a-days, seeks to acquire wealth by some grand speculation, by some other means than by the honest "sweat of his brow." Even mental acquisitions are often sought as a means of speculation, as a means of living without work; and hence we see the learned professions crowded to overflowing. Go into the main streets of our cities and villages, and you will see the fronts of nearly all the buildings, on either side of the way, shingled over with the signs of lawyers and doctors, who,

in the estimation of the populace, lead lives of little work and great dignity. Doubtless a foreigner, with such an exhibition before his eyes, would think us a nation of lawyers and doctors, living on the misfortunes of each other; nor would his conclusion be very wide of the mark.

Nor can it be doubted that there are thousands in the clerical profession, who, if they do not subsist on each other, subsist in a "mysterious way" on salaries entirely inadequate to their support. It would seem that the supply of professional men in this country exceeds the demand. For this there may be no remedy. Yet a step in the right direction should be taken, as it seems to me, by advancing the standard of professional attainments so as to exclude mediocrity and shallow pretence from registration on the "roll of honor." Wide as the world is, it has no room for idlers or pretenders.

This over-supply of professional men not only indicates a false estimate of what really constitutes a true manhood, but clearly proves that in American education, and in American public sentiment, there are prevalent errors which are inconsistent with the welfare of man, and the democratic character of our institutions. These errors can be corrected only through the influence of a well-directed course of popular education. But nothing is more difficult than

the correction of popular errors. It is a task the reformer often attempts, but seldom accomplishes. In most cases it must be a work of time, perhaps of ages. In every school there should be a regular system of physical, as well as mental exercises, established. Health and strength of body are prerequisites to health and strength of mind.

In most of our colleges and boarding-schools the physical development of the pupil receives but little attention, and, consequently, he is enfeebled in body if not in mind, and is then sent out into the world to endure its hardships without the physical ability to take care of himself. All this is radically wrong, and calls loudly for reform. An exclusive culture of the mental powers can never produce a strong man or woman. This fact is painfully illustrated in all our large towns and cities. The kind of education, therefore, which attempts to refine our young men and young ladies, by giving them an artificial nature too delicate to endure soiled hands, will never do. The coarse as well as the fine work of practical life must be done by somebody. Though some may be too proud, none are too good to work, however elevated may be their social position. There is really nothing in our daily routine of duty — in the coarse work of the world — from which an enlightened mind should shrink.

It is to be hoped the time soon will come when all our public schools, colleges, and universities will have their workshops and gardens, affording the necessary facilities for instructing our youth, male and female, in some industrial art or trade, as well as in books, and thus give them a relish for labor, and the physical ability to endure it.

If such a method were adopted, the women of our country would soon become practically fitted to compete with the men in many, if not all the channels of a business-life. If it be true that the women have been deprived of their rights, it is certainly not the fault of the men, but a fault of education, — a radical error which should be remedied. If parents will not apply the remedy in the early education of their daughters, then there is no relief. Let a course of education make it as fashionable for a woman to pursue some industrial art or trade, as it is to be a lily that neither "toils nor spins," and you would soon see American women not only capable of taking care of themselves, but more generally solicited than now to assume the endearing cares of their appropriate sphere.

The true mission of woman is divine. To her belongs the post of honor, — that of a wife and mother, — a position which she prefers to occupy when yielding to the impulses of her nature.

In educating her, therefore, this great fact should be kept in view. There is no knowledge she needs more than a correct knowledge of human character. This she can only acquire by coming in contact with the world as it is, in childhood as well as in womanhood; in the public school, as well as in the social circle. The old Puritanic idea that the sexes must be schooled separately in order to secure them from exposure to moral dangers, seems to me not only erroneous, but absurd. The public school, when made up of both sexes, is, in fact, an epitome of the world, where its good and its evil are seen, and where the child should be taught to accept the good and reject the evil, under the guidance of correct moral principles. It is in a pure home-influence, however, that a primary education should begin. Indeed, mothers must take the initiatory step in giving to youthful impulse the right direction.

"Just as the twig is bent, the tree 's inclined."

But in order to appreciate the full import of their duties and responsibilities, mothers themselves must first be properly educated. Where, then, is this all-important work to be commenced? Where can it be commenced, except in our common schools? It is in the common schools only that the masses can be educated.

It is to the common schools only that we can look for the proper education of the future fathers and mothers of the land, and for the correction of popular errors. It is to this class of schools, more than to any other, that we must look for our future patriots and scholars, statesmen and philosophers, and last, not least, for our future school-teachers.

The mission of a school-teacher is truly a mission of divine import. It is the school-teacher who moulds the youthful mind, and converts it into a casket of gems. It is the school-teacher who gives direction to budding thought, and awakens in the soul of youth the slumbering fires of genius. In short, it is the school-teacher who lays the broad foundations of the Republic, and hews the pillars that sustain our civil and religious institutions. The school-teacher should, therefore, possess the qualifications of a master-builder, be able to plan his work, and execute it with tact, taste, and judgment. He should not only govern himself, but should be able to govern his pupils without seeming to govern. In a word, he should be a model character, and regard his profession as one of honor; and honor his profession by elevating it to the dignity of a learned profession. He should remember that he is placed in a position which gives him a vast influence, — an influence broad as the ocean of

time — an influence which should be pure in its character, and as refreshing to the growth of the inner-life as the dews of heaven to the unfolding flowers.

There is no means, perhaps, more efficient in promoting the success of a professional teacher than the instruction to be derived from institutes, or normal schools, in which the art of teaching is made a specialty. This class of schools should be made a part of our school system. At least every Congressional district, if not every county, should have its normal school. It is only in this way that our public schools can be supplied with accomplished teachers, and be made worthy of being called the "people's colleges."

But the truth is, the masses are not as yet more than half awake to their real interests. In the cause of popular education the wonder is, that educators have done so much, and legislators so little. The true educator is a philanthropist. He sees and feels that public sentiment needs to be enlightened and liberalized, before it will yield its sanction to such a system of public schools as ought to be established.

In perfecting our present system, we need a National Bureau of Education, to act as a central power in representing, if not in controlling, the general educational interests of the entire

country. A department of this kind, it is believed, would give efficiency and equality to all public schools, and thus greatly elevate their general character. And with this view Congress should be required by the Constitution, not only to establish, but support in each of the States at least one national college; and these colleges should constitute a national university, in which the crowning studies should be natural science, military science, and the science of government.

It is doubtless true that educators have already become a power in the land. Of this fact they seem to be aware, and the danger is that their influence may be subordinated to the uses of political aspirants. Every educator has a right, of course, to express his own individual opinions; but he certainly has not the right to employ educational instrumentalities to promote the interests of a selfish partisanship, either in State or Church. Whenever it is attempted to sow "tares" of this kind among the wheat, it is to be hoped that an indignant public sentiment will eradicate them with an unsparing hand.

It is always pleasant to recall our early school-days, with their many delightful and refreshing memories, which still linger about the old schoolhouse where we received our elemen-

tary education — the dear old schoolhouse by the wayside, with its noisy group, its sunny spots, and its hours of fun and frolic, and especially its birchen sceptre, which so often taught us the "doctrine of passive obedience." It is unquestionably true that every schoolhouse, to some extent at least, reflects its character in the character of its pupils. Hence we should not only look to the character of our schools, but should build our schoolhouses in a neat, if not imposing style; for they, though silent, are eloquent teachers, whose influence should create such impressions as will tend to refine the tastes and elevate the aspirations of the youthful mind.

But no system of education which is contracted, or revolves in a circle, can fully meet the exigencies of the mind, or satisfy the demands of the age. In most American colleges, as well as in the universities of Europe, a definite course of study is prescribed, and made a fixed fact — a kind of Procrustean bed which every lad is either stretched or abridged to fit; and this is done, as scholastics tell us, for the purpose of disciplining the mind. No two persons were ever created to think, act, or look alike, in in every respect; nor can an educational system be prescribed by square and compass which will be alike adapted to all minds. In my hum-

ble judgment, those studies best discipline the mind which tend most to enlarge and liberalize it, and which are essentially concordant with its native powers and capacities. The course of education, therefore, which will best develop the peculiar genius, talent, or marked preference of the pupil, should be adopted, so far as practicable. If a young man, for instance, exhibits a native talent or taste for music, painting, mechanics, law, medicine, theology, agriculture, or commerce, his education should take the direction indicated. If this plan were pursued in all our colleges and other schools of a high order, we should soon see — instead of here and there a star — a galaxy of brilliant men and women in the sky of our national renown, whose excellence in their several specialties would challenge the admiration of mankind.

The truth is, our modern colleges are not modern enough. They look to the ancients for wisdom, instead of seeking it from Nature and the revelations of modern science. In a word, the dead languages are studied too much; the living, too little. Next to mathematics, the natural sciences should take the preference. No man is thoroughly educated, who is not thoroughly instructed in these sciences, especially in chemistry and geology. Every farmer should

be familiar with agricultural chemistry, and be able to apply its principles. It is the utility, the practical good to be derived from an education, that gives to it value and solidity.

It is practical, not fanciful knowledge, which the masses need. In order to secure their elevation and social equality, every State in the Union should be required to maintain an efficient system of common schools, accessible to all classes of youth, and made "good enough for the richest, and cheap enough for the poorest." In order to effect this, the system should recognize the theory as an equitable principle, that the property of the State is bound to educate the youth of the State. This principle is certainly a just one, since the man of property, though he have no children, is as much benefited by its application as the man who has children, but no property; for the reason, that the security of property, as well as the rights of persons, and the stability of the Republic, must ever depend on the degree of intelligence possessed by the people.

In fact, each State should be regarded as one great school-district, and all its resident youth as the children of the State, for whose common education every citizen, having taxable property, is bound to contribute his proportionate share. In this way every child can be edu-

cated, and elevated to the social position of a true manhood; and it is only in this way that a work of such magnitude can be accomplished. In every point of view, it is much wiser to educate than to punish, much wiser to build schoolhouses than prisons, much wiser to sustain school libraries than billiard-tables.

It is a matter of congratulation, however, that there is now much more confidence placed in the theory of common schools than in former years. In most of the States prejudice has yielded to enlightened sentiment, and the "people's colleges" have come to be regarded as the most useful and influential institutions in the land. All should be done that can be, to render these schools pleasant and attractive. The schoolhouse should be built not only in good taste, but its surroundings should be made as cheerful and inviting as possible by planting about it ornamental trees, shrubs, and flowers. Its interior walls should be enriched with appropriate maps and charts, historical paintings, and portraits of renowned men and women. In addition to this, every school should be supplied with an ample apparatus, embracing specimen weights and measures, mathematical figures in wood, together with globes and a planetarium, not omitting a cabinet of the leading minerals, metals, and coins. Their uses and character-

istics should be explained and illustrated by the teacher in a simple style of language, and in the presence of the entire school, at least once or twice a week.

Familiar exercises of this kind would deeply interest the pupils, and impart to their minds a degree of valuable knowledge which they would not be likely to obtain in any other way, and which might awaken, perhaps, some unconscious genius, who would, in after life, so develop his powers as to advance the interests of science, and take his place among her proudest masters. In nearly every instance our truly great men have arisen from an obscure origin.

The time has already arrived, I am inclined to think, when there should be added to the usual course of studies pursued in our colleges, academies, and high schools, a systematic training in military science and discipline, as a means not only of physical culture, but as an easy method of fitting our young men to become practical soldiers and defenders of the Republic. We, as a people, in consequence of the late civil war in which we have been involved, are evidently undergoing a transition, which has already had the effect to change, in a good degree, our national traits of character. If we would have invincible men, we must, like the ancient Greeks, accustom our sons to

hardships and manly exercises, give them muscle as well as mind, teach them to love and defend their country, and, if need be, to die for it, — die on the battle-field —

> "Where gory sabres rise and fall,
> Like shoots of flame on midnight's pall!"

The attempt which we are making in our public schools to educate our children in the shortest possible time, is a grave error. We ought rather to make "haste slowly," if we would do the work well. A work of this character is one which requires patience and perseverance. There is no short way to knowledge, no patent right that can produce it to order. It can only be obtained by study, persevering study. It is all-important, therefore, that we should furnish our children with such elementary books as are best adapted to their capacities and needs, and with such teachers as are qualified to teach them lessons contained, not only inside of books, but outside of books, — lessons which abound everywhere, both in the natural and in the moral world. We should also furnish them with school libraries composed of standard works, and including the best current literature of the day. A library of this character should be established in every school-district, and be made accessible to every citizen.

In this way, and only in this way, can the masses be supplied with the mental food which they so much need, and which is indispensable to their moral and intellectual elevation. No matter what the cost, public libraries always pay a liberal dividend in the shape of mental and moral power, if not in dollars and cents. No matter what dangers may threaten our free institutions, depend upon it, a reading people will take care of themselves.

The ancients built temples to their gods. We build schoolhouses for our children. This one fact exhibits, perhaps, more clearly than any other, the distinctive character which marks the career of ancient and modern civilization, and indicates the great change which has been wrought in the progress of ages by the law of progress. In the Northern States we may justly regard our numerous schoolhouses and churches as the mirrors, not only of moral character, but as the safeguards of the Republic. If the Southern States had adopted a regular system of common schools contemporaneously with the Northern States, the doctrine of secession would never have disturbed the peace and harmony of the Union.

In the pursuit of knowledge, it is quite absurd to suppose that all high attainment in art, in literature, and in science, must, of necessity,

be confined to the "learned professions," as they are called by way of pre-eminence. It does not matter what a man professes to know, but the question is, what does he know, compared with what he might know? There should never be such a monopoly allowed to exist, as a monopoly of knowledge. The learned professions have nothing in them sacred, — no forbidden fruit, — nothing more than what everybody may know who chooses. Nor can there be any good reason why every employment in the various departments of human industry — every trade, every mechanic art — should not be regarded as a learned profession, and be made a learned profession, in which brains as well as hands should co-operate in achieving success, and in solving new problems.

There is food for thought in every human pursuit. In order to be successful, in order to achieve high aims, the laboring man must not only think, but be capable of thinking profoundly. Indeed, every man may live like a philosopher, and be a philosopher, if he will. But no man can be a true philosopher who is not both a practical worker and a practical thinker. There is nothing the world needs more than workers and thinkers to make it a paradise. The masses are workers, and, if educated, would become thinkers. It is only once or twice in a century,

it is said, that "God lets loose upon the earth a great thinker." Of the past, this may be true; but not of the present. We have scores of men now living who are greater thinkers than Plato, Newton, or Franklin, because modern science has introduced them into broader fields of thought. The chemists, geologists, inventors, and discoverers of the present day have never been excelled as profound thinkers. Ours is literally an age of philosophers.

Truth, though eternal, is never stationary; nor will the law of progress ever reach a standpoint. There is always something to be done; some *vacuum* to be filled. It is said by philosophers that Nature abhors a *vacuum*. I do not doubt it, especially if it be a *vacuum* in the human head. It is pretty certain that the youthful head, if not filled with sense at the proper time, will soon be filled with nonsense. Neither errors of the head, nor errors of the heart, can be easily eradicated, when once implanted. The moral nature of the child may be moulded at will; but the cherished opinions of age can seldom, if ever, be either reversed or essentially modified. In the great battle of life our success as individuals must depend on the kind of armor in which we are clad, and the kind of weapons with which we are supplied. For effective service there is nothing which can be

brought into the field so formidable or so irresistible as the artillery of logic. Intellect is always sure of becoming the ultimate victor. We read of giants in the chronicles of the early ages, — physical giants, who could overthrow the pillars of the proudest temples, and bear off mountains upon their shoulders; yet, of what value to the world were their marvellous exploits, if really true, compared with the achievements of those intellectual giants who have appeared at different epochs, and taught mankind the most useful lessons in the arts, in the sciences, and in philosophy? And here let me say to the young aspirant for worldly honors, that if he would achieve high aims, he must not only aim high, but have faith in himself as well as in a divine Providence. Indeed, every man, however humble, may become great in his vocation, if he will. Yet no man can become truly great who is not truly good.

So far as human perfection can be defined, it consists in the purity and sublimity of moral action, — a perfection which may be approached, if not reached, by all who are so disposed. How truly has it been said that we are never too old or too wise to learn. Nor is any man so ignorant but he may teach a philosopher something.

No matter how conservative we may be in

our creeds and opinions, the world will continue to move onward; nor can it stand still if it would. The time is at hand when errors in creed, as well as in education, to which we cling, will not only be exposed, but exploded. However hopeless the condition of the masses may seem, they are already demanding more light, and only await an opportunity to proclaim their emancipation from mental thraldom.

The statistics relating to the numbers of mankind, and to the frail tenure of human life, convey lessons which ought not to be disregarded in the estimate we make of what man can do to elevate himself. Strange as it may seem, it is a fact pretty well ascertained, that the entire population of the globe neither increases nor diminishes, but remains essentially the same, — about one thousand millions. And yet the population of the earth is continually undergoing changes from the operation of local causes, increasing here, and diminishing there, as the ages advance. The law involved seems based on the principle of a just compensation for all diminution. In other words, the earth has a limited capacity; and, like a cup when filled, can hold no more, yet always remains full.

When we consider the fact that one-fourth of mankind die before reaching seven years of

age; one-half before reaching seventeen years; and that sixty persons die every minute, we are struck with astonishment, and are naturally led to inquire into the reasons. The causes which abridge life may, for the most part, be attributed to popular ignorance, or disregard of physical law, — either in ancestor, parent, or child. Nothing can be truer than the fact that the "sins of the fathers are visited upon their children unto the third and fourth generation," and even to indefinite generations. It is indeed a fearful inheritance, when life comes to us tainted with constitutional disease. For this there seems to be no remedy, except in the adoption of such a popular system of education as will diffuse a practical knowledge of the laws of health.

It may be safely asserted that most people, especially in America, where food is abundant and the style of living luxurious, "dig their own graves with their teeth." Americans, as we all know, are disposed to live fast; and, of course, die prematurely. In short, we are a sanguine, impatient people; have morbid appetites; crave rich viands; seek wealth and office; and care for little else. In our successes we commit excesses. In the pure elixir of life we infuse drops of poison. Yet Nature proffers us the gift of long life, and waits our acceptance with a patient

spirit. Though extreme longevity may not be desirable, yet many more than now do, might attain to the dignity of centenarians, if they would but live in obedience to physical law.

In the elements of his physical nature, man is truly "of the earth earthy." Chemists say that a man of ordinary size is composed of forty pounds solid matter and five buckets of water, all of which may be converted into gas. If this be so, it sufficiently accounts for the leading characteristic of some of our modern politicians. However this may be, man is a delicate piece of mechanism, a combination of divine inventions. For example, his eye is a telescope, which penetrates the mysteries of the stars; his ear is a drum, which repeats every sound in nature; his heart a timepiece, which marks, with measured beat, the fleeting moments of his life; his vocal organs a harp with a thousand strings, which is capable of uttering the divinest music.

And yet man, in his moral nature, though created but "a little lower than the angels," is a profound puzzle. He advances many theories, questions even divine truth, yet believes in absurdities. Nor need we marvel at this, perhaps, when we recall the fact that mankind speak more than three thousand different languages, and profess more than one thousand different religions.

Whether regarded as a common brotherhood, or as composed of distinct races, it is evident that the human family have made rapid advancement in the amelioration of their condition, during the last century, through the instrumentalities of a world-wide commercial intercourse, and the consequent diffusion of nobler incentives to action. Yet of the one thousand millions that compose the great family of man, more than six hundred millions are still groping their way in the darkness of a moral midnight, awaiting the advent of the schoolmaster and the promulgation of a purer and holier faith. Even in Christian countries, especially in the South American States, and in many parts of Europe, the masses are almost universally illiterate and superstitious, and have so long been accustomed to oppression that they have become quite indifferent, if not insensible, to their natural rights; nor dare they, if they would, assert their manhood.

In Italy, the land of art and of beauty, the proportion of those who can read is from twenty to thirty in a hundred, while among the inhabitants of districts within a circle of thirty miles around Rome, there is not one in a hundred who can read. Not only in these countries, but in more than half the globe, the masses submit to oppression, because it is the policy of their

oppressors to hold them, spell bound, in ignorance. If they are ever elevated to the social and political rank which the God of nature designed them to occupy, it must be done by the schoolmaster, armed with his text-books, and sustained by the efforts of an enlightened Christian philanthropy. For this ultimate object God works, and man should work.

There can be no doubt but natural scenery, as well as climate, exercises a decided influence in the formation of national character. Whether we advert to Palestine, Switzerland, or New England, it is easy to discover that the mountains of these countries have, by their silent eloquence, inspired the masses of the people, not only with reverence, but with a love of freedom. In the sublimity of the cloud-capped mountains, they seem to recognize a divine presence which has taught them to look skyward, and to feel that they are destined to ascend in the scale of existence; while in low and level countries, especially on the plains of Russia and Asia, the inhabitants take horizontal views of things, and consequently submit to oppression, and never dare, like mountain-bred men, to break their fetters or question the decrees of fate.

The ancient inhabitants of Palestine, as everybody knows, were not only brave in warfare,

but were distinguished above all other nations as a reverential and God-fearing people. Their form of government was essentially theocratic. In the earthquake they recognized the footsteps of God; in the solemn thunder they heard his voice; in the lightning's flash they saw an expression of his anger; in the rainbow they beheld a token of his promise; in a word, they were a peculiar people, who have, in the record of their experiences, transmitted to mankind a sacred inheritance.

Switzerland is emphatically a land of mountains and of heroes. Almost every hill and vale within her borders has its consecrated spots and its sanctified memories. In the recesses of her mountains the love of freedom ever burns with a pure and a holy flame, because it is a love which was born of the mountains.

In New England it is equally apparent that the silent grandeur of her mountains contributes to inspire her inhabitants with lofty sentiments, and with a love of civil and religious liberty, — a love which can never be subjected to the reign of oppression, nor be misdirected in its action, except by its own enthusiasm.

It often happens that the inhabitants who occupy distinct portions of a common country differ as widely in their sentiments as in their manners and customs. Especially is this true

of the United States, where it is easy to distinguish the Eastern, Western, and Southern people from each other. It may be natural causes, or it may be local interests, that have created these differences, and marked the people of each region with the peculiar traits of character which give them character.

The New Englanders are generally characterized as sedate, formal, and puritanical; guessing at every thing, yet pretty shrewd at guessing. They possess genius, are prolific in inventions, and scrupulous in matters of faith. In discussing theological questions, they split hairs; in making a bargain, they conclude to split the difference. In all things they are quick to see advantages, and apt to take advantages. In whatever they undertake, they look ahead and go ahead. In every sixpence which falls within their grasp, they recognize an element of power which "leads on to fortune;" and when they have acquired a fortune, they are pretty sure to keep it. And, as Halleck, the poet, says, —

"They love their land because it is their own,
And scorn to give aught other reason why;
Would shake hands with a king upon his throne,
And think it kindness to his majesty;
A stubborn race, fearing and flattering none.
Such are they nurtured, such they live and die;
All, but a few apostates, who are meddling
With merchandise, pounds, shillings, pence, and peddling!"

In the Western States, where Nature educates men on a liberal scale, by giving them broad rivers, broad lakes, and broad prairies, we find a people characterized by broad and liberal views of things, large-heartedness, frank manners, generous sympathies; a philanthropy which regards all mankind as a brotherhood, and a public sentiment which rebukes intolerance. In truth, Western men despise "little things" and devise "liberal things," and would sooner sacrifice their lives than yield obedience to the mandates of either political or ecclesiastical oppression.

In the Southern States Nature has not, as yet, effected much in the exercise of her educational influences. In whatever she has attempted in this direction she seems to have been overruled by circumstances: by the difference in races, and by the prejudices of caste. Though the South has produced a few intellectual men of a high order, she has contributed, comparatively, but little either to science or to standard literature. Yet it must be conceded that the South has always been justly distinguished for her hospitality; and it is to be hoped that she will yet become as distinguished for her loyalty and for the triumphs of a true civilization, as for her rash attempt to dissever the Union.

Whatever human institutions may achieve, it

is certain that Nature, in the manifest wisdom of her works, contributes largely to the education of all classes of men in all countries. In her great school, even the uncivilized man not unfrequently becomes a profound philosopher. The coinage of her mint has the true ring in it, and passes current everywhere. Her light is the light of the world, yet the masses are too blind, or rather too ignorant, to see it. Without intending the least disrespect to the one thousand different theologies which distract mankind, it may be asserted that the Book of Nature is, in itself, a divine revelation, which has been divided by her own hand into chapter and verse, and may be read in the alphabet of the flowers, in the rocks of the hills, and in the stars. In its language it is not only beautiful, but every word is suggestive; in its doctrines it is pure and truthful; in its wide range of thought it treats principally of life, and of the conditions of life, and assures us that the silent process of creation — of eternal change — still goes on, now as ever; and that every particle of matter in the universe is constantly active, achieving something.

In a philosophical sense, there is nothing dead that does not live. Matter combines, dissolves, and re-combines. New forms of life, and new conditions of life, appear and disappear. The

very dust under our feet has lived and breathed, and will live again. Nature waits to be gracious, and is ever ready to reveal her mysteries as fast as man can comprehend them. And though she speaks with a silent lip, she invites all to share her bounties. Her wealth is infinite.

In every star, in every flower, in every blade of grass, in every grain of sand, in every thing visible and invisible, there is life, light, and beauty. In every thing there is power. We cannot look at a grain of sand, insignificant as it may seem, without seeing in its composition the material which enables us to read the golden record of the heavens. In the falling raindrop, when converted into steam, we recognize the existence of a power which has revolutionized the world. In the kiss of the sunbeam we discover a magical influence which tints the flower, gives color to every thing in Nature, and by its impress presents us with an exact and lifelike transcript of ourselves and of our friends. In the lightning's flash we have a language in which we can converse with our friends, three thousand miles away, at any moment we please.

When we consider what has been achieved in the way of scientific discovery during the last half century, who can tell what may not be achieved in the next century, — in the next ten centuries, — when the great mysteries of Nature

shall be more fully revealed, and when new sciences, now unknown, shall disclose new principles, new forces, and still subtler agencies?

In her desire to perfect the manhood of man, Nature invokes interpreters — unborn interpreters — who, though far away in the distance, will yet come, and, when they do come, will interpret in accordance with truth the mystical language in which her undiscovered secrets are written, and thus extend the empire of thought until it becomes infinite, — an empire in which the human soul, still rising in the scale of intelligence, will acquire divine powers, and finally be transformed into a permanent crystallization of the good, the true, and the beautiful.

AMERICA AND HER FUTURE.

AMERICA AND HER FUTURE.

THERE is something in the very name of America, when applied to the United States, which carries with it an inspiring influence, — an ideal of freedom and of true manhood. In referring to the incidents of her origin, in connection with the events of her subsequent career, it would seem that America is none other than a "child of destiny."

She was born amid the storms of a revolution, and commenced, at birth, to work out the great problems of civil and religious liberty. She has an abiding faith in herself, and believes it to be her mission to originate new views and discover new principles, as well as try new experiments in the science of popular government. The greatest peculiarity in her character is, that her past cannot be safely accepted as an index of her future; in other words, her past is not likely to be repeated. In fact, she does not wish to repeat or perpetuate any thing that can be improved. Her political creed is as simple as it is brief, — the "greatest good to the greatest number;" and yet it is the most complex

creed, perhaps, that ever existed, involving questions which have not been and cannot be satisfactorily settled.

America knows what she has been, but does not know what she will be. It is doubtful if she knows what she would be. She has several favorite watchwords, such as progress, freedom, and equal rights, and but few, if any, settled opinions. Her present position is her standpoint of judgment. In attempting to achieve what she most desires, she relies on experiment rather than precedent. In her forecast consist her welfare and her political sagacity; yet she can no more predict than control her future. None but a divine intelligence can comprehend the extent or grandeur of her future.

One thing is certain, the rapidity of her career approaches railway speed. What impediments may lie in her track, or what collisions may occur, it is impossible for man to foresee. It would seem, however, that she is an instrumentality in divine hands; a nationality, whose task it is to work out the great problem of a just government, — one in which all political power is vested in the people, and exercised by the people for the common purpose of securing the greatest possible good to the greatest possible number. The right to live under such a government is a natural right, and should

be accorded to every human being, the world over.

In all human governments there are, and probably ever will be, more or less imperfections growing out of mistaken theories, or arising from their practical workings. Though it may not be possible by legislation or otherwise to remedy every imperfection, yet there can be no political inequality which may not be so far modified as to extend to every citizen equal rights and equal justice. There is a natural love of freedom and of justice implanted within the human breast, which lies at the foundation, not only of the political, but of the social fabric. This love of freedom and of justice is an instinctive feeling, if not an inspired sentiment, which ennobles the patriot, and converts him into a hero. When oppressed, the true hero smites his oppressor. This is a law of his nature — an attempt to redress a wrong — and therefore an element of human government. When a civil government has been instituted, positive law becomes the rule of right. But when nations differ, and diplomacy fails in its mission, there remains no recognized alternative for adjustment but a reference to the arbitrament of the sword. This final method of redressing national wrongs has descended to modern times from the primitive ages of barbarism, and, when adopted, as often

terminates in perpetuating the wrong as in redressing it. It is, to say the least of it, a method which is entirely inconsistent with the refined civilization of the present age.

There seems to be no good reason why an international code of laws might not be adopted by all civilized nations for their common government in redressing their grievances. If such a code could be framed and accepted, it would not only secure the just rights of nations from infraction as against each other, but would unite them in their mutual interests and sympathies by the indissoluble ties of a common fraternity. Then all differences and dissensions could be settled, as they should be, by negotiation or voluntary submission to arbitration; and then wars would cease and rivers of blood no longer flow.

Nations, in their relations to each other, are but individuals, and should, as such, be subjected to wholesome restraints by some recognized authority. The proper authority would seem to be a representative Congress of Nations. This view of the matter is an American idea, and one which has been suggested by American experience. The assumption that every nation is an independent sovereignty, if not absurd in theory, is by no means true in fact. No civilized nation can live within itself and for itself; but

must and will, in order to supply its wants, hold commercial intercourse with other nations. The productions of the earth belong to man, and are essential, whether of this or that clime, to his health and happiness, and will, therefore, be sought and distributed. Even the social relations of one nation with another are hardly less conducive to the general welfare than their commercial relations, especially since steam-power and the telegraph-wire have comparatively made all men next door neighbors.

In these modern times no government which is not just in its administration can long survive without provoking a revolution. It is only as a last resort that revolution becomes an elementary right, and then it must succeed in order to be recognized as a right. Nations succeed each other as naturally as individuals, sooner or later. The interest of all, whether national or individual, is the interest of each. Hence, mankind the world over, should be regarded as a common brotherhood, entitled to the enjoyment of equal rights and equal justice as the legitimate sequence of their fraternal relationship. And yet, neither in ancient nor in modern times do we find a perfect government. It is true, however, that we sometimes speak of our own American Republic as a perfect system of popular government; yet it is nothing more, in

fact, than an unsatisfactory experiment. It is a system which grew out of circumstances, and one which changes with circumstances.

It was near the close of the eighteenth century when America began to lose her affectionate regard for her mother England. This change in her affections grew out of the fact that the mother evinced a sincerer love for money than for the welfare of her daughter. Remonstrance, though calmly uttered, proved unavailing. It was then that America, for the first time, gave indications of possessing a proud Puritanic spirit that would not brook oppression. The imposition of the stamp-act had incurred her displeasure; nor did an invitation to "take tea" restore her to equanimity. Instead of condescending to take so much as a "sip" of that favorite beverage, she had the audacity to commit whole cargoes of it to the voracity of the "ocean wave." This offence provoked England to take an avowed hostile attitude. America, still unawed, proceeded to beat her ploughshares and pruning-hooks into broadswords. War, with all its horrors, ensued. The result was, that, after a seven years' contest, liberty triumphed, and American independence became an acknowledged fact.

America had statesmen in those days who were men of pluck. When they signed the

Declaration of American Independence, and proclaimed it to the civilized world, they took their lives in their hands, and, so far as human foresight could determine, were as likely to reach the gallows as to maintain the position they had assumed. But fortune "favored the brave," and, instead of ascending the gallows, they ascended the pinnacle of fame, and now take rank among

> "The few, the immortal names
> That were not born to die."

It will be recollected that our Pilgrim Fathers, on landing at Plymouth Rock, entered into a written compact which contained the germs of a republic, — principles which were expanded in the subsequent articles of colonial confederation, and finally were so developed and enlarged in their sweep and comprehension as to constitute not only the framework, but the life and spirit, of the Federal Constitution, which has been accepted as the written will of a free and magnanimous people. In a republic like ours, the popular will, when clearly expressed, commands respect, and must be obeyed. There is no alternative, nor should there be. As Americans, we believe in the Constitution, and in the "stars and stripes," and would die, if need be, in their defence. We also believe in ourselves, and in

our capacity to take care of ourselves. This great fact is sufficiently illustrated in our past history as a nation.

When her population was but a small fraction of what it now is, America not only compelled England to acknowledge her independence, but also compelled her, in a subsequent war, to acknowledge the doctrine of "free trade and sailors' rights."

Ever intent on enlarging the "area of freedom," America next sent out her armies and took possession of the ancient palaces of the Montezumas, and finally settled differences by accepting the "golden land" of California, nor thought it, at the time, much of a bargain. And last, not least, she suppressed within her own borders, despite the adverse influences of England, one of the most formidable rebellions the world ever beheld, and succeeded in restoring fraternal harmony throughout the Union.

In the history of the world there have been many forms of human government, which have arisen at successive periods, and which may be classed as the patriarchal, the monarchical, the aristocratic, and the democratic. The last was originally a direct rule of the people; but, from necessity and convenience, has now become a representative government, chosen by the people, and controlled by their will and action as

expressed through the medium of the ballot-box. The doctrine that "the majority must rule" is evidently based on the scriptural idea, that in a "multitude of counsellors there is safety;" and yet this is not always true. Minorities are often right, and majorities wrong. What is right, and what is wrong, is a matter of opinion, ever changing with the advance of civilization.

Take any form of government you please, and analyze it, and you will find that its vitality, and its ability to preserve itself, are based on physical power, — a power to coerce; and when this power fails, the government fails, and either anarchy or revolution is the inevitable consequence. Yet the moral power of a government, though it may not save it, is not less important than its physical power. When both are exercised with no other view than a sincere desire to promote the public welfare, the government is pretty certain of being sustained, and simply for the reason that it is approved by a generous and healthful public sentiment. But let public sentiment become corrupted by the influences of aspiring demagogues, or by men who avow principles in conflict with the public interests, and no government, however pure and just in its inception, can long command respect, or preserve its authority.

Every nation has its representative men.

America has hers. Cotton Mather was a Puritan and a theocrat; Benjamin Franklin, a patriot and a philosopher; George Washington, a great general and a model man; Thomas Jefferson, a true democrat and a wise statesman; Andrew Jackson, a hero at New Orleans, and a Jupiter in the presidential chair; and Abraham Lincoln, a man of destiny, who crushed rebellion, and proclaimed freedom to four millions of slaves. These were the men of power in the hands of Divine Power; and yet they did not comprehend the sequence of their mission. Their achievements marked the age in which they lived, and will doubtless exercise a living influence, more or less controlling, throughout the coming ages of the civilized world.

Nations, as well as individuals, have their destiny in their own hands. It is the character of the individuals constituting the nation which gives to the nation its true character. America began her career by laying the foundations of her character, not in the sand, but on the rock of free schools, free churches, and a free public press. Without these institutions true freedom can neither be acquired, nor be preserved. They are the only legitimate nurseries of a healthful and vigorous public sentiment. Preserve these institutions, and the nation will continue to be free and prosperous and happy

and powerful and glorious. And yet there may be corrupting influences growing out of the manner in which a popular government is administered, or growing out of the exercise and extent of the right of popular suffrage.

Indeed, it has already become a grave question how far it is safe to extend the right of suffrage. It cannot be denied that our American population is but an intermixture of different nationalities, thrown together by a common desire to become free men in a free land. Yet immigrants continue to come from the old world, differing as widely in their political and religious education and predilections as in their language, customs, and social habits. It is this foreign element that makes our population what it is, — an assimilating, and yet an unassimilated mass. A five years' residence, under our present naturalization laws, entitles aliens to citizenship and the right of suffrage. When they have acquired citizenship, demagogues assume to be their best friends only to deceive them and advance their own selfish aspirations. In this way the original peculiarities of the different nationalities are wrought into political subserviency, and employed as an element of power in securing the balance of power. It is in this way that the people are first corrupted, and then the government. It is in this way

that we, as a nation, allow demagogues to educate the masses into a low and degrading estimate of what constitutes a popular government, and of what are its true legitimate objects.

The right of suffrage is clearly a political, not a natural right. It should be exercised with wisdom, and only with reference to the "greatest good to the greatest number." The ignorant cannot exercise this right with safety, for the reason that they are not sufficiently intelligent. A certain degree of education should therefore be regarded as an indispensable prerequisite. A mere residence of five years in the country, without the ability to read and write the English language, should not be accepted as a presumptive qualification, though strengthened by an oath of allegiance.

There are some statesmen, as well as other persons, both in this country and in Europe, who are earnestly engaged in agitating the question of extending the right of suffrage to women, on the ground that women are citizens, and often own taxable property, and consequently have the same interest as men in securing and maintaining a just and proper administration of the government under which they live. While this is true, it is equally true that men are endowed by nature with more physical, if not more mental strength than

women, and have a higher regard for the diviner sex than they have for themselves, and, consequently, were created to be their protectors and guardians. In fact, the two sexes are but counterparts of each other, as much so as the two halves of an apple. In Nature's arithmetic, the two count but one, and should be but one in heart and in life. But, somehow or other, many of these halves get strangely mismatched, or are never matched at all. This is not a fault of Nature, but a defect in our social system. If it were considered as proper for women as for men to be the first to propose marriage, it would, doubtless, lead to the happiest results. But, taking things as they are, the thought has occurred to me that it would be wise for the State to limit the right of suffrage to men who are, or have been married, for the reason that such men would naturally feel the deepest interest in sustaining a good government. Let the right to vote and to hold office depend on marriage; let the honors of State and of society be conferred on none but those who have honored themselves by assuming the duties and responsibilities of wedded life, and I doubt not that all marriageable bachelors would aspire to the honors of full citizenship, while marriageable women would soon find their proper places in their proper sphere, and the

government become what it should be, — pure in its principles and just in its administration.

America is in a transition state, and will, in all probability, continue to trust in the success of untried experiment, rather than rely on her past experience. But still there survives within the American breast a popular sentiment, which, like the magnetic needle, ever points to an unerring polar-star. It is only amid clouds and storms that dangers arise, or become alarming. It is therefore important that the ship of state should be intrusted to none but skilful mariners. The pilot should appreciate the dignity of his position, and comprehend the extent of his responsibilities. Whether the "golden age" of America terminated with the outbreak of her great civil rebellion, or commenced at the date of its final suppression, remains, perhaps, an undecided question; yet there are thousands who believe that her golden age has passed, never to return. This may or may not be true.

It is hardly to be expected, however, that a happier age will ever arrive than that which existed prior to the Southern rebellion. The people generally, both North and South, before an appeal to arms occurred, were characterized by a genial sincerity in the expression of their political views and in the recognition of their constitutional obligations, as well as in their

ecclesiastical connections and social relations. They, in fact, felt that they were akin to each other, and regarded each other as a common brotherhood, having mutual interests in sustaining a common government, — a government which their fathers had framed, and bequeathed to them and to coming generations. In this relation, for nearly a century, the North and the South enjoyed uninterrupted peace and prosperity, and America took her position as one of the great and powerful nations of the earth.

But in the midst of this happy period of American history appeared interpreters of the "higher law," so called, whose aggressive fanaticism disregarded constitutional rights, and thereby engendered the "doctrine of secession." The first blow in the contest was struck at Harper's Ferry; the second at Fort Sumter. Secession became a living fact. Conflict followed conflict, and millions of brave men were slain on the battle-field. The lamentations of widows and orphans were heard all over the land, and the cries of despair ascended to heaven; even "Freedom shrieked" amid the devastation. At last, with the exhaustion of the South, came the white-winged messenger of peace. The military power of the North had triumphed; and, as a result, four millions of ignorant slaves were emancipated, and invested

at once with all the rights of citizenship. In addition to this an oppressive public debt was created, accompanied with a national demoralization still more to be deplored.

And now it becomes a grave question, whether the freedom of these emancipated slaves will prove a boon or a curse to them. As yet they cannot comprehend their relative position; nor can they foresee their ultimate, though not distant destiny, — extinction. As a race they differ widely in their natural characteristics from the superior race among whom they have been diffused. They belong to Africa. The two races, being distinct in the conditions of their origin and physical structure, as well as in their temperament and tastes, can never harmonize as one people, either in their social or political relations, on the basis of a perfect equality. The thing is impossible, simply for the reason that the law of antagonism which exists between the two races is founded in Nature, and is therefore a divine law, which can neither be controlled nor essentially modified by legislation or education. In fact, a "war of races" has already become imminent, and must, when it does come, terminate in the expulsion, if not extinction, of the inferior race.

In the future of America there are mystic events which time only can disclose. "On-

ward" is the watchword of the living present. Every American believes there is "a tide in the affairs of men which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune." The "almighty dollar" is his leading star. Hoards of gold and silver glitter in the distance. In acquiring wealth he acquires power. He knows that wealth is power; and hence the acquisition of wealth has become the ruling passion of the age. In other words, money supersedes merit, while moral honesty is held at a discount. Lamentable as the fact may be, it is evident that an unscrupulous desire to obtain wealth and political honors pervades all classes of American society, from the highest to the lowest.

In order to facilitate the accumulation of wealth, and achieve their ambitious aims, individuals consolidate their capital in corporations, and corporations consolidate themselves into overgrown monopolies. In this way almost every leading branch of trade and of manufactures, as well as railroad interests, shipping interests, and telegraph lines, are merged in corporations, — in fact, nearly all that remains of individuality is lost in corporationality. Of course the mere individual, however meritorious, becomes literally powerless, unless recognized by a corporation. Though a trite saying, it is nevertheless true, that corporations are "soul-

less," and therefore devoid of human feeling and of human sympathies. Among the most formidable of these monopolies are the railroad corporations, ever busy in weaving their spider-like webs over the entire continent. In discharging their duties to the public they seldom subordinate their own interests.

Almost every man of wealth in America is a stockholder in one or more incorporated companies, and will, of course, act politically, as well as individually, in accordance with his interests. Both the commercial and financial operations of the country are essentially in the hands of corporations. They, in fact, monopolize the banking institutions; and if they do not control, they evidently desire to control the legislation and government of the entire country. Indeed, the time has already come, when, in quite too many instances, the popular voice yields to the corporative voice, while personal merit and qualification for office become questions of secondary importance. It is easy to be seen that corporative interests have become not only gigantic, but are engaged, with pick and spade, in undermining the very foundations of the Republic. If the people would preserve their equal rights, and enjoy the blessings of a free government, they must not only remember, but act on the principle, that "eternal vigilance is the price of liberty."

It is owing to the tendency of capital to combine its productive energies that workingmen, as they are pleased to designate themselves, conceive the idea that capital and labor are antagonistic in their interests. Hence workingmen, especially miners and mechanics, combine against capitalists for the purpose of securing higher rates of wages. In doing this, they resort to "strikes," violate their contracts, and dictate their own prices. If their terms are not accepted, they refuse to work, and the great leading industries of the country are crippled, if not suspended. A train of moral and physical evils follows, which are more seriously felt by the "strikers" than by capitalists. If movements of this kind are continued, the obvious result will be to drive capital out of the country to seek a more reliable investment. It is labor that produces capital, and capital that furnishes labor. The one must depend on the other. Their interests are therefore mutual, and both are entitled to equal protection. Their relations to each other must necessarily be regulated by the law of supply and demand. There is no other law or power that can do it. If force be applied, it is certain to re-act. Yet the field is alike open to all. The laborer often becomes a capitalist, and the capitalist a laborer. What are known as "strikes," there-

fore, can effect no lasting good to any one. They are but elements of social discord, which demagogues seize and control for their own aggrandizement. In fact, "Trades Unions" are nothing more nor less than organized conspiracies against capitalists and the best interests of the country. If tolerated, the government itself is in danger of being ultimately subverted. It is clear that the tendency of these unions is to produce disunion. They have already become so formidable in numbers, and in political influence, as to render it doubtful whether any legislation could be obtained, or military power enforced, which would either control or restrain them in their action and ultimate aims. In view of this state of things, it would seem that the time has come when the American people, as a nation, should pause and "take the sober second thought."

It is often said that the world is governed too much. But, so far as this country is concerned, the reverse seems much nearer the truth. Our government is presumed to be the creature of public opinion. In theory it is so; but in practice we generally find that what is called public opinion is manufactured by a few scheming politicians, through the instrumentalities of packed conventions and a subservient public press. And hence candidates for office are

selected with a view to their availability rather than for their known capacity and integrity. This failure to select the best men of the country to govern it, and administer its laws, has already resulted in degrading American character by the corrupt practices which it has generated, if not sanctioned, in every department of government, whether federal, state, or municipal.

In fact, dangers lurk on every side. There is no safety, unless it can be found in the virtue and intelligence of the people. If in this respect the people are deficient, it is the fault of their education. The rights of citizenship should depend on education, and the masses, if need be, should be educated by compulsion. As it now is, the learned professions are regarded as the main pillars that sustain the social fabric. They, in fact, give tone to public sentiment, and erect the standard of public morals. The masses accept their opinions, and seldom question their accuracy. And yet the masses are often misled. The few corrupt the many. Hence it is that we so often see the lawyer, the doctor, and even the clergyman, swayed in their political action by improper incentives; and especially is this true of professed politicians and official dignitaries. As a matter of course public sentiment becomes

demoralized, and almost every species of fraud and corruption comes to be regarded as quite respectable. If for this state of things there be a remedy, it is only to be found in our public schools and in the moral teachings of our churches. It is here that the work of reform must begin, the sooner the better. It should begin by relaying the foundations of the Republic deeper and broader, and with principles as solid and permanent as the masonry of the everlasting hills. When this great radical work has been accomplished, the threatening clouds which now cast their shadows over our national future,

> "Will fold their tents, like the Arabs,
> And as silently steal away."

While in the tendencies of the age we see much to admire, we also see much to be regretted. In a word, there is too much friction in the complicated machinery that spins and weaves the web and woof of American character. In religion, morals, and politics, wide differences of opinion are to be expected, yet they should be honest. While a free public press may be regarded in theory as the "palladium of American liberty," it seems to proceed, practically, on the belief that its own interests are the public interests. Especially is this true

of the political press. Money, instead of principle, is too often its guiding star. By its influence, men in office, and out of office, are made and unmade at pleasure. And this will ever be the case so long as editorial utterances are accepted as oracular. And yet there is hope, and perhaps safety, even in the freedom of our partisan prints, so long as they continue to expose the falsities of each other, whatever may be their motives. If, as in China, the head of every editor who knowingly publishes an untruth were demanded as a forfeit, it is to be feared that gentlemen of the "tripod" would soon become "few and far between" in this broad land of the free. Yet the newspaper is the controlling power of the government, and the mouth-piece of public sentiment. Editors should, therefore, appreciate their responsibility, as well as "take the responsibility."

Though rotation in office may be regarded as a wholesome principle in the administration of a popular government, it is evident, from the history of the past, that frequent elections tend to disturb the peace and harmony of society. One political campaign scarcely ends before another begins. Especially is this true of our Presidential elections. The spirit of these elections extends to all our local elections, and often renders them equally bitter and intolerant.

The keynote is usually sounded by the friends of the administration, who wish to retain its patronage; or by opponents, who seek to overthrow it for the sake of the "spoils." Though candidates for office contend loudly for principles and reform, it is evident, that, with many of them, the public treasury is the centre of attraction. It is true, however, that there are some honorable exceptions, some men who are influenced by patriotic motives, who love their country, and desire to promote its real welfare, and who would rather "do right than be President of the United States."

In a government like ours, which is essentially partisan in its character, there exists a manifest want of promptitude in the exercise of its central power. In other words, it takes a Republic too long to move and execute in a crisis. It is prevented from doing this by the popular trammels which environ it. And yet it is often as difficult to ascertain what is the popular will as it is to comply with it. For this reason it is often a slavish fear, rather than a sense of right, that controls the administration of the government. Even our best men, when placed in power, become so sensitive to public opinion that their moral courage "oozes out at their fingers' ends." They see lions in their path, and therefore fear to do their duty.

So long as a love of office, rather than a love of country, influences the action of the politician and the statesman, there can be neither strength nor stability in the framework of democratic institutions. For an illustration of this, we need only appeal to the histories of Greece and Rome. America has produced, however, many model men, and, doubtless, will produce many more of a like character. It is men that we want, men of nerve and pluck, as well as men of wisdom.

It is impossible to predict the future, except as we see it from a standpoint of the present. Hence it is, perhaps, that we apprehend dangers when there are none. Yet we know that the elements of dissolution are incorporated into the very material that constitutes the universe. And so it is with the nations of the earth. The law of change is universal. It affects alike both the moral and the physical world. In his desires, man, as an individual, is insatiable; and so are nations. It is a prominent trait of Americans to want territory, and to acquire territory. They must have elbow-room; but the misfortune is, they do not know when they have enough. It seems as if they aspired to grasp the world, and to govern the world.

It is doubtless true that we, as a nation, have already acquired too much territory. The re-

sult is, the government has become unwieldy, and the danger great that it will break down, sooner or later, of its own weight. So vast is the national domain, and so various is it in its climate, productions, and population, that its central power cannot so legislate as to do equal justice to all interests, and, at the same time, harmonize the conflict of public sentiment. This state of things had its influence in producing the outbreak of the late rebellion. For grievances of this character, there would seem to be no other remedy than that of revolution or secession.

We can but hope, however, that the States now known as the United States, will continue to increase in numbers, and to harmonize as one people, one nation, and one government. Yet it is quite possible that the time will come when they will sever into groups, and become independent of their present federal relation to each other, in accordance with their peculiar sectional interests, "peaceably if they can, forcibly if they must." Then, instead of one, we shall probably have several independent American confederacies, whose future boundaries are clearly indicated not only by differences of climate and productions, but by Nature, as marked by her great intervening rivers, lakes, and mountain ranges. These confederacies,

when organized, will doubtless consist of those groups of States now known as the Eastern, Western, Southern, and Pacific States.

In addition to sectional interests and geographical differences, there are other considerations tending to induce a dissolution of the Union. Among these are an almost unlimited number of political aspirants, and a rapidly increasing population. In Europe, and in many parts of Asia, an overgrown population, in connection with geographical differences and tribal distinctions, is doubtless the original cause which led to subdivisions of empire, and the establishment of so many petty kingdoms as now exist in those countries. The same causes are evidently at work on the American continent, and must ultimately produce similar results. In less than a century our population has increased from seven to forty millions. In the next century, at present rates, the increase from natural growth and the influx from foreign emigration will, in all probability, approximate to two or three hundred millions. Asia alone, judging from present indications, will transfer to this continent, within that period, two-thirds or more of that number. If this be assumed as worthy of credence, is it not time that we, as American citizens, should look ahead, as well as go ahead; and, if possible, preserve our national character?

It is true that an intermixture of foreign blood with American blood may tend to develop a higher order of manhood; yet, when we go so far as to permit foreign languages to be taught in our public schools at the public expense as essential to an American education, and that, too, at the dictation of denizens whose education and predilections are in conflict with our own, have we not reason to fear the ultimate results? If this insidious influence of foreign growth be allowed to control our educational system, it will not be long before we shall adopt foreign habits and sentiments, and lose forever our American nationality.

If America would be true to herself, she must preserve not only the purity of her principles, but the purity of her spoken language. If foreigners choose to become American citizens, they must expect to become Americanized in language and sentiment, as well as accept our form of government. We want no foreign element incorporated into our free institutions which does not harmonize with them. In a word, we want no union of Church and State, no "confusion of tongues" in our public schools, no aping of foreign manners and habits, no foreign dictation, nothing but pure American freedom and pure American principles.

It is in this country that Church and State, for

the first time in the history of the civilized world, have been separated, and allowed to conduct their own affairs in their own way, and independently of each other. So far as experience has gone in this respect, it proves the wisdom of the policy. And yet there are many statesmen, who, in reading the "signs of the times," think there are reasons for believing that the priesthood have inherited their ancient love of civil power, and are quietly endeavoring, in various ways, to secure such a degree of moral power over the popular mind as will, in effect if not in fact, transfer to them the control of the civil government.

If the priesthood are to control the government, it matters but little whether it be the Catholic or the Protestant. Both seem equally ambitious of the mastery, and only lack the power to decide which shall triumph. In adopting ways and means, both seem to be influenced by the same ultimate design. Catholicism regards the Church as supreme and the State as subordinate; repudiates public schools, and trains her youth in the church, and for the church, thus preparing them to become not only adherents to the faith, but "soldiers of the cross;" while Protestantism asks the recognition of God in the constitution; urges a fraternal union of all her various denominations, with a

view to concentrate and direct their moral force; and even goes so far as to discuss politics in the pulpit, — thus attempting to control the results of our popular elections, especially when great moral questions are supposed to be involved. In all this there may be no insidious design; but facts carry with them a degree of significance which ought not to be disregarded. If a "religious war" must come, it will be a fearful contest; and one which must result in the subversion of free government, and finally extinguish the last hope of every true philanthropist.

And yet, as a people, we need never "despair of the Republic," so long as we sustain free public schools, and confide the government to none other than an enlightened and philanthropic statesmanship. If America continues to respect herself, she is evidently destined to wield, not only the moral power of the world, but to complete the civilization of the world. Inspired with a desire to ameliorate the condition of mankind the world over, she annually expends millions of money in advancing the cause of a true Christianity. So inviting are her free institutions that she is rapidly becoming a central nation, in point of wealth, talent, and population, as well as in moral and political influence. It should be her pleasure, as well as

aim, not only to perfect her own government, but to diffuse a knowledge of her liberal principles throughout the world.

In reverting to the history of the past, we see that nations, like individuals, have their career, succeed each other, and finally become extinct. On this continent the red race has been rapidly succeeded by the white race. Whether a still higher order of man will succeed the white race, is a question which time only can determine.

Nature is provident, and, like Divine Providence, works in "mysterious ways," and with an aim to achieve ultimate results. What America now is, we know; what she will be, we know not. It is devoutly to be wished, however, that her career may continue to be characterized by great and noble achievements, and that her "star-spangled banner" may forever float in triumph —

"O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave."

LIFE AND ITS ASPIRATIONS.

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In addressing you as a graduating class, permit me to suggest for your consideration a few thoughts on the importance of regarding self-culture not only as a duty, but as the only means of elevating and ennobling your aspirations in life.

Though you have completed your academical course with a degree of success which does you credit, you should remember that the great work of education still lies before you, and that the formation of your characters and the shaping of your destinies are committed to your own hands. And here let me assure you that it is little, rather than great things, which mark the character of a true gentleman. In fact, there is but one way in which a refined education can be acquired, and that is, "little by little."

It is thus from day to day, from year to year, from everybody, and from every thing, that you may learn, if you will, something new, something useful; and though you care not to do it, yet you will, in spite of yourselves, learn

something, good or evil, just as you may choose to apply it.

You certainly have the power to choose between good and evil; in other words, to achieve the loftiest aims. Yet, in directing your aspirations, you must adapt means to ends; collect your materials and refine them, and in refining them give them the brilliancy of costly jewels, jewels which you can wear with becoming grace and dignity wherever you may go, and at all times, and under all circumstances.

The acquisition of a mere book-knowledge, however desirable, will avail you but little, unless you acquire, at the same time, correct habits and principles, united with refinement of manners. The world will be likely to take your personal appearance, your style of dress and address, as the true index of your character; and, whether deceived at first view or not, will finally estimate you at your true value. In perfecting your education, it is not to be expected that you are to master every branch of human learning, but rather that you are to make your life a life of thought, of study, of observation; of strife to excel in all that is good, and in doing good.

In attempting to achieve great things in the world, you must not overlook little things, little attentions, little civilities due to others with

whom you may come in contact; for your claims to consideration will be estimated by the character of your conduct in social life. There are certain conventionalities recognized in good society which you must respect, and to which you must conform, if you would be well received. Your manners and habits are, therefore, of vital importance as elements of character.

It has been truly said that man is a "bundle of habits." It may be said with equal truth that our own worst enemies are "bad habits." We all know that bad habits fasten themselves upon us, as it were, by stealth; and though we may not perceive the influence which they exert over us, yet other persons perceive it, remark it, and judge us accordingly. The formation of correct habits in early life is comparatively easy, while the correction of bad habits, when once formed, is always difficult, especially in more advanced years. In a word, if you would become model characters, you must discard all bad habits, all odd habits, all that is ungracious or ungraceful in word, deed, or manner, and make it the leading rule of your life to observe the proprieties of life, in all places and under all circumstances. In order to achieve all this, it is indispensable that you should study yourselves, watch yourselves, criticise yourselves,

and know yourselves as others know you. The value of self-examination has been forcibly, as well as beautifully expressed in a single stanza by Robert Burns, —

> "O wad some power the giftie gie us
> To see oursel's as ithers see us!
> It wad frae monie a blunder free us,
> An' foolish notion:
> What airs in dress an' gait wad lea'e us,
> An' ev'n devotion!"

It is true that in relation to the laws of etiquette many books have been written, which are in fact more read than observed, and which are more perplexing than practical. No lady or gentleman was ever made truly polite, truly agreeable, truly amiable, by a strict observance of artificial rules. Something more is needed; something must be done. It is in the heart, in the exercise of all the moral and Christian virtues, that true politeness has its foundation. True politeness is never selfish, never ostentatious, but always overflowing with kindness, always angelic in its attributes. In word and deed, it is always considerate, delicate, and graceful; yet in its ministrations it always preserves its own self-respect, while it manifests its sincere respect for all that is good and for all that is meritorious.

Heaven has imposed on us the duty of acquiring all the knowledge we can. In discharge of this heaven-born duty, we should begin at once the great work of self-culture, — a work never to be discontinued. He who would build a spacious and a lofty temple, a fit dwelling-place for divinity, must first lay the foundations broad and deep; not in sand, but on a rock; and then, though storm and tempest beat against it, it cannot fall, because it is founded on a rock.

But in adopting a system of self-culture, too much care cannot be bestowed on the cultivation of your manners, your attitudes, your style of conversation, and your expression of sentiment. In regard to manners, it is impossible to prescribe exact rules. The best models for you to copy are to be found in the manners of the model men and women of our country who give tone to society. At any rate, be governed by good sense and by the dictates of nature, so modified by art as to conceal art. To disguise art is the perfection of art. In this lies the secret power of angelic charms, — the charm of polished womanhood and manhood.

In your social intercourse employ a pure and unambitious style of diction, and be careful to maintain a quiet and unobtrusive deportment; and above all things avoid singularities and eccentricities, nor attempt to attract attention

for the sake of gratifying an overweaning vanity. And while you manifest a due respect for others, be careful to maintain your own self-respect. Never indulge in exhibiting violence of temper; but on all occasions control your feelings and expressions, though provocations arise which justly excite your indignation.

If you would attain to the highest possible standard of social refinement and moral virtue, you must rely on yourselves, must look into the mirror of your own hearts, and behold your own defects, and then proceed at once to apply the appropriate remedies. To do this effectively may cost you much labor, yet the task will be found comparatively easy when you have resolved to execute it.

It is not only your privilege, but your duty, to acquire knowledge from every source, as the bee gathers honey from every flower. Collect and compare facts; for in every fact, whether great or small, there lies hid a lesson of wisdom, — a logic which is not only irresistible, but divine. Theories are of but little value unless attested by facts. All mere theories are alike worthless, whether they relate to the physical or moral world. "Prove all things, and hold fast that which is good." No better rule than this, for your guidance through life, ever was, or ever can be given. Facts, though "stubborn things," are

never falsehoods. You may, therefore, regard facts as truth, as the kind of mental food you should acquire, digest, and convert into nutriment, and thus grow strong and wise, until you have realized the great fact, that "man was created but a little lower than the angels."

For the purpose of self-culture, in its highest sense, an ordinary lifetime seems quite too short, though prolonged to threescore years and ten. The value of time cannot be overestimated. If we would but consider how many precious moments we fritter away and lose in an unprofitable manner, we should see that it is the want of a due regard for the value of time, rather than a want of time, of which we should complain. It is not, therefore, the fault of a Divine Providence that we have not time enough to perfect ourselves in the arts of a refined civilization, and in the realization of the highest enjoyment of which our nature is capable. Whatever else you may lose, never lose a moment of time which can be profitably employed. A moment of time once lost can never be regained. Insignificant as a moment may seem, your destiny may depend on the improvement you may make of it, on the deed or thought it may prompt. Life, though long, is made up of moments, and terminates in a moment; and all true knowledge is founded in truth.

If you would prolong your lives, and enjoy health and happiness accompanied with vigor of mind, study the laws of health and obey them. Make yourselves thoroughly acquainted with yourselves, by becoming acquainted with the physiology of the human system, and by living in compliance with the requisitions of its principles. Nature is the best physician you can employ, whatever may be your malady; but, in order to be healed by her prescriptions, you must apply to her in time, and adopt the uniform and temperate habits of life which her laws require.

It is said that Nature has her favorites. This may be true. It would seem that some persons are born poets, some philosophers, some fiddlers, some one thing, and some another. It may be said that such persons are specialists, born to accomplish a special purpose. They doubtless subserve the interests of mankind as models, or standards of merit, in their respective specialties; yet to be born a genius is not, in itself, a matter of merit, but it is the good one does in the world which creates merit and crowns life with honors.

Nearly all of our truly great men are men of self-culture, who have acquired brains by the slow process of a life-long industry in the pursuit of knowledge. This class of men are not

only much more numerous than born geniuses, but much more useful. They have a wider range of intellect and wield a wider influence. They are men who read, think, and digest what they read. In their choice of books they select standard authors. They are not book-worms, devouring every thing that is published; nor are they literary dyspeptics, who feed on sentimentalism and French cookery; but hale, hearty men, who prefer common sense and roast beef, — caring more for the quality of their food than for the quantity.

The world in which we live is a beautiful world. He who made it pronounced it good, and designed it for the residence of the good. It is, in itself, a paradise for all who choose to make it a paradise. In a physical sense, it is not only a beautiful world, but a great storehouse full of knowledge, full of wisdom, full of facts, — a record of the past and of the future, written by a divine hand. In short, it is the great Book of Life — of Revelation — in every word of which we may find an outspoken thought, —

> "Tongues in trees, books in running brooks,
> Sermons in stones, and good in every thing."

In estimating your life-work, you should feel that yours is a high destiny, and that much is

expected of you. If you would succeed in the world, you must have faith in yourselves, as well as in a Divine Providence, and act upon the principle that "God helps those who help themselves." Wherever you go, make yourselves as acceptable and as agreeable to all with whom you come in contact as possible. If you would be preferred, prefer others; and if you would be beloved, scatter flowers by the wayside of life, but never plant thorns; and, in all you do and say, unite modesty with simplicity and sincerity.

There can be no true manhood or womanhood that does not rest on character, in the highest sense of the term. In fact, it is the character we bear that defines our social position. The formation of character is a work of our own, and requires the exercise of all the better and higher powers of our nature. On character depends not only our usefulness in life, but our individual happiness. Character is the engraved mark, or sign, by which every individual is known, and indicates the essential traits of his moral composition, the qualities of his head and heart, as displayed in his aspirations and in the work of his life. Character is more enduring than reputation. God respects character; man respects reputation. The one is as lasting as eternity; the other as evanescent as the bubble

that glitters in the sunshine for a moment, and then disappears forever.

In forming a true character, such an one as crowns the true man with an imperishable diadem, there are many things to be considered, especially the materials which enter into its moral masonry. Its foundation must be solid and immovable; its superstructure chaste and elegant; and its proportions harmonious and beautiful. Like a temple built for the gods, it should be worthy of the gods. It should be not only beautiful in its exterior, but be, in its interior, the life-work of a truly heroic soul.

Character represents soul. As character is moulded by human instrumentalities, so is soul. Soul is, therefore, the essence of a true manhood, a living principle that cannot die. It is an influence in itself, and out of itself, felt everywhere and forever. It is the moral life and the eternal life. Like a pebble cast into the broad ocean, its impulse is sensibly felt by the entire ocean. Every particle moves a particle, until the vast deep is moved. Such is individual influence. If character, then, be what it should be, truthful, noble, divine, it will necessarily be Godlike, and exert an influence in harmony with the benevolent designs of heaven.

And yet there are thousands who seem to

live without purpose, live merely to vegetate. Of course such persons do not live in earnest, and hence, do nothing in earnest. They have life, but no lofty aspirations. They may have souls; but, if so, they remain undeveloped. In fact, persons of this character have no character, no earnest work, no significance. And for this reason, though living, they are literally dead. If we would make the world what it should be, we must first make ourselves what we should be. The work must begin at home, in our own own hearts, and with a view to our own moral needs.

In the cultivation of a pure heart-life, we should begin by cultivating "a conscience void of offence." If we would unlock the gate of Paradise, we must look for the key where it is to be found. We may rest assured that it cannot be found in an uncultivated field of brambles and briers, nor amid the rubbish of a misspent life. Yet, to find it, only requires diligent search. Though every thing beautiful, every thing noble, every thing sublime, may lie in the distance, yet it is attainable. It is the *ultimatum* that we should seek, — something substantial, something eternal. Mere fame is nothing worth. It is a thing of earth, and not of heaven.

There may be an innate feeling or principle

that constitutes what is called conscience; yet it must be conceded that conscience is practically but the product or outgrowth of education, and may therefore be so moulded as to become the just or unjust judge of the moral questions which involve both our present and future welfare. How important, then, that this judge should not only be a righteous, but an educated judge, familiar with the principles of right and wrong, and stern in the application of them. In a word, conscience is the central life of character, — the silent monitor within our own breasts, whose moral influence controls our destiny.

The law of love may be regarded as the great law which underlies all law, because it is divine. In fact, love is the law that pervades the universe; and, in itself, is sufficiently indicative of our moral obligations. He who is governed by it, cannot err. It is not, however, what we do for ourselves, but rather what we do for others, that can afford the most substantial happiness. If you would receive, you must give, influenced by a kind and generous spirit. "Overcome evil with good." In this way, like a moral Alexander, you may conquer the world.

It is doubtless true that conscience, being essentially the outgrowth of education, is ever in a formative state, and may therefore be strengthened and elevated in its moral percep-

tions by culture. The more perfect its judgment, the more perfect the man or woman. There can be no religion without conscience; nor can there be conscience without religion. The one is a counterpart of the other; and equally true is it, that the character of the one reflects the character of the other.

A true religion does not consist in a mere profession of faith, nor in church membership, but in that which is the leading principle of our lives; in that which binds us to achieve an ultimate aim; in that which calls into exercise all our moral powers, and harmonizes our lives with the requisitions of the divine law. Yet any religion is better than none. Even the pagan is not destitute of a religion of some sort, however debased it may be. It is simply the refinement of a higher civilization which has made the difference between the pagan and the Christian. Nothing can be more important, therefore, than the kind of education which is bestowed on us in childhood, or the kind of self-culture which we choose to bestow on ourselves. And though circumstances may be adverse to our interests, it is our duty to conquer circumstances, and take into our own hands the fabrication of our fortunes. In this life every day brings with it new lessons; and though some of them may be pernicious, all of them have

their value. If there were nothing evil, there would be nothing good; for the reason that there would be no contrast, no standard of comparison. And yet between good and evil there is no half-way house, no "happy medium."

In every question of right and wrong there are but two sides. The one or the other we must take, either directly or indirectly. We cannot take a neutral stand if we would; nor can we identify ourselves with both sides. Sincerity and hypocrisy are not born of the same parentage, and cannot, therefore, walk hand in hand, nor take the same social position. They are marked by a different sign, and by their sign they are readily recognized. Appear where they will, the one will be respected, the other despised.

If you would excel in any thing, in any particular pursuit, you must first resolve to excel; and then persevere, cost what it will. If you encounter lions in your path, exterminate them. In ascending mountains make difficulties your stepping-stones, and never look back until you reach the summit, and can breathe freely in a pure atmosphere. If you would reach the stars, construct your own ladder, and climb until you not only reach them, but are crowned with them. The soul never becomes truly heroic until it becomes truly Godlike in its aspirations and purposes.

It is only in the practice of the cardinal virtues, — prudence, justice, temperance, fortitude, — that we acquire that divine power which alone can make us divine. It is only in the adoption of lofty aims that we can expect to reach a lofty ideal. Every thing is possible to him who has resolved to make it possible. In other words, where there is a will there is a way. The will is the motive-power: if this be wanting, then all is wanting that goes to make up the character of an heroic soul. The world needs moral as well as physical heroes, — heroes who know their duty, and dare do it. In the battle of life none but the wise and the valiant can be safely intrusted with the command. The hostile powers of darkness, of ignorance, of superstition, challenge the field, and cannot be overcome without a severe conflict. The crisis has come. Whether armed or unarmed, you must meet the foe; for results you must trust in yourselves. It will never do to trust in shields, in breastplates, in fire-arms, or in faith without works. If you would conquer, you must go into battle inspired with lofty aims, and with a divine enthusiasm; then will victory perch on your standard, and the eagle of freedom, fire-eyed, pierce the sun.

And yet you should remember that in your attempts to achieve success, you must deserve

success. It is only in severe moral discipline that you can see what you need, and acquire what you need, — eminent virtue, industry, and sagacity. In social life, be social, amiable, and accomplished; in domestic life, be something more, — be kind, considerate, and sympathetic. Whether you have one or more talents, improve them: they will grow brighter by constant use. Whatever may be your capacities, never indulge in vain aspirations. However seductive the temptations which may beset you, never compromise your integrity. However ambitious you may be in your ultimate aims, regard a good moral character as of infinite value. Always true to yourselves, be true to others. Place implicit confidence in no one, but confide in the strength of your own individuality. In adversity be hopeful, and always look on the bright side of things.

In selecting a profession or business for life, be governed by your natural taste or capacity, — your peculiar talent for this or that pursuit. If embarrassed by circumstances, never yield to them, but resolve to excel in whatever you undertake. Perseverance is the secret of success. If born with the gift of genius, make it available; do something new; invent something new; and, in this way, bequeath something valuable to mankind. In other words, live for

mankind, and, if need be, die for mankind. Adopt this as the religious sentiment of your life, and act in accordance with it, and your works will sufficiently attest the purity of your faith.

And yet you are not required to crucify yourselves; but, on the contrary, it is your duty, while striving to live for others, to live for yourselves, and thus make yourselves and your homes as happy as possible. It is not in the shade, but in the sunshine, that you should seek to live. It is only the now of life, the fleeting present, of which you are certain. If, then, you would be prosperous, if you would be happy, if you would look to the future with a pleasing hope, so live as to feel that you are sustained, in all you do, by an approving conscience, and by the divine counsels of Infinite Wisdom. It is only by living thus that you can make life on earth what it should be, — a heaven-life.

He who made all things has made no distinction between heaven and earth. It is man that has made the distinction. The natural atmosphere which surrounds the earth is pure and healthful: it is only the moral atmosphere that has become impure and deleterious. It needs no chemical agencies to purify it. It must be purified, if at all, by moral agencies. In other words, we must recognize our obliga-

tions to our fellow-men, and obey the "Golden Rule" as prescribed by the law of love, if we would succeed in making earth a heaven.

Almost every American of culture has an object in view for which he lives, some ultimate aim or aspiration which stimulates him to effort. It may be a desire to excel in some one of the learned professions, or to become a millionnaire, a hero in the battle-field, a Solon in the halls of legislation, perhaps president of the United States. In attempting achievements of this character, it should be remembered that knowledge is the basis of success. It is knowledge that gives power, and wisdom that should direct us in wielding it. Yet a man may be learned, and still be a cipher in the world. God gave to man a divine outline, and then left him to perfect himself, at least in a mental sense. This he must do, or remain an animal, and "feed on husks."

Nearly all our great men are self-made men. This is true of Washington, Franklin, Jefferson, and scores of others, who, like them, have acquired an enviable renown. Thus, in all ages of the world, have men of lofty aspirations reached lofty standpoints, and immortalized their names.

It is somewhat surprising, however, that most of our American graduates look to the learned

professions, rather than to a practical business life, as affording the widest field for the acquisition of wealth and high social position. This, it seems to me, is a great mistake, nine cases in ten. Not more than one professional man in ten ever rises above mediocrity in his profession, while the remaining nine generally regard themselves as fortunate if they succeed in acquiring a comfortable livelihood.

In fact, the learned professions have yet to learn that the supply exceeds the demand. And hence there is but little use in attempting to shine as a "star" in any of the professions, unless you have a sufficient brilliancy to take rank as a "star of the first magnitude."

And yet we cannot have too many men of liberal education: the more the better. They are needed in every pursuit in life, and in every place. It is not the occupation that dignifies a man, but the man that dignifies the occupation. When you have chosen a pursuit, whatever it may be, aim high. Yes, —

"Give me a man with an aim,
Whatever that aim may be;
Whether it's wealth, or whether it's fame,
It matters not to me.
Let him walk in the path of right,
And keep his aim in sight,
And work and pray in faith alway,
With his eye on the glittering height.

Give me a man who says,
"I will do something well,
And make the fleeting days
A story of labor tell."
Though aim he has be small,
It is better than none at all:
With something to do the whole year through,
He will not stumble or fall.

But Satan weaves a snare
For the feet of those who stray
With never a thought or care
Where the path may lead away.
The man who has no aim,
Not only leaves no name
When this life is done, but, ten to one,
He leaves a record of shame.

Give me a man whose heart
Is filled with ambition's fire;
Who sets his mark in the start,
And keeps moving higher and higher.
Better to die in the strife,
The hands with labor rife,
Than to glide with the stream in an idle dream,
And lead a purposeless life.

Better to strive and climb,
And never reach the goal,
Than to drift along with time,—
An aimless, worthless soul.
Ay, better to climb and fall,
Or sow, though the yield be small,
Than to throw away day after day,
And never strive at all."

MISSION MONUMENT AND ITS DEDICATION.

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JUNE 28, 1867.

In the accomplishment of great moral purposes, a Divine Providence employs human instrumentalities. Of this we have ample evidence, not only in the history of nations, but in the career of individuals.

A little more than eighteen centuries ago a few obscure fishermen, while casting their nets into the Sea of Galilee, were called to abandon their nets, and become "fishers of men."

A little more than sixty years ago a few obscure young men, while pursuing their classical studies in Williams College, were called to go into benighted lands beyond the sea, and proclaim the divine doctrine of "peace on earth and good will to men."

These students, though unknown to fame, were young men of thought, and of high moral aspirations. Influenced by a devotional spirit, they felt that God had a great work for them to do; and that it was, therefore, important for

them to comprehend their true relations, both to God and to man.

What was the precise character of the great work assigned them, they did not seem to know; and for this reason they sought for more light, and for guidance from the Mighty Counsellor, whose wisdom is infinite, and who cannot err. In seeking for that knowledge which "cometh from above," they were accustomed, in the milder months of the year, to hold occasional prayer-meetings in the solitudes of Nature, believing that

> "The groves were God's first temples."

And doubtless they felt that the Divine Presence dwells more essentially in the silent sanctuaries of Nature than in "temples made with hands."

It was here, within the quiet and cool retreat of the maple-grove in which we are now assembled, that they had convened, at the close of a sultry summer-day, in the year 1806, to hold the accustomed prayer-meeting, when they were overtaken by a sudden shower of rain, and compelled to seek the friendly shelter afforded them by a neighboring haystack.

The group of young evangelists who were present at the prayer-meeting on this particular occasion, consisted of Samuel J. Mills, James

Richards, Francis L. Robbins, Harvey Loomis, and Byram Green. Protected from the rain by the haystack, they continued, amid the conflict of the elements, their devotional exercises, and also discussed religious topics of deep interest to themselves and to the world. It was a sublime moment for them and for the world. The heavens were darkened; the lightnings flashed; dread thunders rolled; the rain fell; yet, amid this conflict of the elements, there came "a still small voice," as if from the storm-cloud. It was a divine whisper, an inspired thought, which stirred the life-currents in the heart of Mills, and diffused upon his brow a celestial radiance. That inspired thought, broad as the earth in its comprehension, Mills announced to his devout companions. They felt its divinity, and regarded it as a divine communication. At the instance of Mills, they knelt in prayer, and besought divine aid and guidance in executing the great work which they now believed had been revealed to them. It was nothing less than a mission to some foreign heathen land, and the ultimate evangelization of the world. In offering up the last prayer at this meeting, so enthusiastic became Mills, that he invoked "the red artillery of heaven to strike down the arm that should be raised against a herald of the cross."

And now, as the storm-cloud passed away,

the skies became bright and serene; the air was pure and fragrant as balm. The raindrops, like jewels, glittered on the leaves in the grove, and on the grass and wild-flowers in the meadows. In short, the smile of Heaven was reflected in the face of Nature. And the sublimity of the scene, as it may be supposed, was heightened by the appearance of a rainbow in the east, that glorious emblem of a divine love, which is so ample in its character as to embrace within its golden circle the great world of mankind, of "every nation, kindred, and tongue."

As these inspired young men of the haystack wended their way back to the college halls, they "pondered these things in their hearts," and communicated their thoughts to such of their fellow-students as they believed would sympathize with them in the desire they felt to consecrate their lives to the great work of foreign missions, and especially a mission to India. Several of their associates became at once inspired with a similar missionary spirit. But as yet the interest felt in this new enterprise was restricted to the circle of the "Society of Brethren," as it was designated. This society was a secret organization, composed of such students as had made a profession of religion, and had for its object the promotion of the spiritual welfare of its members. In pursuance

of this object, they held private prayer-meetings in each others' rooms, and discussed questions of special religious interest; and often, in the summer season, retired for the same purpose to the neighboring groves.

In this way was sown the first grain of "mustard seed," which was destined soon to vegetate and grow to a tree of gigantic proportions. The planting of this "smallest of all seeds" constituted a nucleus for more extended effort. Consequently, other societies were soon organized to promote the good work. In fact, new life was breathed into the "dry bones" of every valley; and heaven repeated the command, "Go, teach all nations."

The grand result of this day of "small things" was the organization, at Bradford, in 1810, of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, — an organization which, under the direction and favor of a Divine Providence, has achieved so much for the civilization and evangelization of the benighted races of mankind. Of this we need adduce no other proof than the leading facts of its history.

In its inception, this Board consisted of but few members. At its first meeting there were but five members present; and at its second, but seven. Its receipts for the first year were but a thousand dollars. Now its annual receipts

exceed a half million of dollars, and its annual meetings are attended by thousands of people. In the aggregate, it has collected and disbursed nearly twelve millions of dollars. It has never lost a dollar by the fraud or embezzlement of any of its officers or agents. Since its first meeting of five persons, in 1810, its corporate members have been increased to two hundred, and its honorary members to seventeen thousand.

It has sent into the missionary field thirteen hundred persons in various capacities, including nearly five hundred ordained missionaries. It has established missions in almost every benighted region of the habitable globe, especially in the eastern hemisphere, — in India, in China, in Persia, in Syria, in Greece, in Turkey, in Africa, and also in several isles of the sea, including the Sandwich Islands. It has more than a hundred missionary stations, and nearly two hundred out-stations occupied by native helpers. It has in the native ministry three hundred Christian converts, about seventy of whom are pastors of churches. These native Christian churches have now increased to two hundred, in communion with which more than sixty thousand hopeful converts have been received.

It has printing presses, which have printed more than a thousand millions of pages of

religious and educational matter, which has been distributed in forty-two living languages, as now spoken in pagan and other unevangelized lands. It has invented alphabets, and reduced eighteen native languages to writing. It has put in successful operation more than four hundred native schools, in which more than twelve thousand native children have been taught. All this has been done in less than sixty years, and still the great work progresses with increasing zeal and efficiency.

Thus has the Board proved itself to be, in the providence of God, a great moral power in the nineteenth century. It is the star in the West, which flings its cheering light into the East. The wise men have seen it, and the shepherds have seen it. Like the star of Bethlehem, its errand is divine; for it was born of an inspired thought which has now become an invincible element in the moral world, — a power which must and will do its work; and though opposition and discouragement may come, —

"Truth crushed to earth shall rise again."

Yes, millions of Christian heroes will come to the rescue, still bearing aloft the banner of the cross, and shouting the battle-cry of civil and religious freedom. And woman, first at the sepulchre, first in deeds of charity, first in every

good work, will renew her activities in the great warfare with moral darkness, until the "uttermost parts of the earth" have been illuminated with the light of divine truth.

It is expected, perhaps, that some allusion will be made to the motive which has induced the erection of the monument you see standing before you in its modest, yet truthful significance. The motive was simply a desire felt in common with many other persons to see a spot which has become sacred in missionary history, commemorated by some permanent expression of Christian gratitude. An expression of this kind seemed due, not only to the great and good cause of American Foreign Missions, but to the revered memories of the five young men of prayer, who knelt here, under shelter of the haystack, and received from on high a divine commission. And permit me to add, that the filial regard I entertain for my Alma Mater, and for my native State of Massachusetts, has had its influence in disposing me to make this contribution to a heaven-born enterprise, and in remembrance of those truly good, and therefore truly great men, whose names are inscribed on the monument. The plan of the monument, as well as its erection here, it gives me pleasure to state, has received the cordial approval of the faculty and trustees of the college. The

grand object for which the monument has been erected, is the commemoration of the "birthplace of American Foreign Missions;" and to this object we now dedicate it, in the name of a Christian philanthropy, whose "field is the world."

In its character, the monument is not less unique than emblematical. It stands on the identical spot where the haystack stood. As a specimen of fine material and artistic sculpture, it is strictly a Berkshire production, composed of Berkshire marble quarried at Alford, and wrought in the workshops of "The Berkshire Marble Company." Its entire height is twelve feet; its shaft, cap, and base, square; its surface polished; its color a silver-blue. It is surmounted with a globe, three feet in diameter, traced in geographical lines. On its eastern face, and immediately below the globe, are inscribed these words, "The Field is the World." Then follows a similitude of the haystack, sculptured in bas-relief, and encircled with these words, "The Birthplace of American Foreign Missions, 1806." And beneath this, appear the names of the five young men who held the prayer-meeting under the shelter of the haystack. The maple-grove, amid whose cool shadows we now stand, is the same grove from which the five heavenly-minded young men were driven by the impending rain-storm.

This maple-grove, which has now become ever memorable, is included within the boundaries of Mission Park. The park contains ten acres, and was purchased on account of its historical interest, and made part of the domains of Williams College. It is the design of the friends of the college to embellish the park with specimens of the trees and shrubs and flowers of every foreign land to which missionaries have been sent by the American Board, so far, at least, as such specimens can be successfully acclimated in this country.

When its embellishments have been perfected Mission Park will become a place of delightful resort, full of sacred memories, which will accumulate and grow in interest with the lapse of time. Every year will bring within its inviting precincts hundreds of pilgrims, and every college commencement its missionary jubilee. Then will Mission Park possess, not only an attractive aspect, but a moral power which will awaken a renewed zeal in behalf of missions. And here may this consecrated monument, which is so expressive of a highly interesting fact in the history of missions, ever remain as an educator of coming generations, and as a landmark in the pathway of the citizen, the student, and the stranger. And here let the moral hero of the present, and of the future,

stay his steps, and make still higher and holier resolves. Nor let us of the present generation forget that we have a great work still to accomplish in the moral field, — a field which is as broad as the earth, and in which we ought to renew our diligence, — feeling assured, that, with the final triumph of truth, will come universal freedom, universal love, and universal brotherhood.

It is due to Williams College to say that her educational and Christian influences have ever been directed by a benevolent and philanthropic spirit, — a spirit that burned on the prayerful lips of Mills at the haystack, and which has inspired with heroic zeal, in the cause of truth, thousands of human souls throughout our western hemisphere. Humble as the college may have been in its infancy, time and the favor of Heaven have made it a power in the land. In every department of literature and of science it has furnished mental giants, who have made their mark in the world. In addition to this, it has sent forth its thousands of faithful workers, who are engaged, far and near, in pulling down the strongholds of error, and in building up in their stead towers of strength, founded on a Christian basis. In its teachings of literature and of science, it teaches those still higher and diviner principles which give to man the graces

of a true manhood. In a word, its refining and harmonizing influences are felt, not only by its sons, but by thousands of others, the world over. Few indeed are the men who have wielded a more extensive influence for good, or contributed more to the permanent value of our theological literature, than the learned and venerated President of Williams College, Dr. Hopkins.

Though the world owes much more to the efforts and vigilance of the faculty and trustees of Williams College than it has ever acknowledged, yet these patient, earnest, and hopeful men will continue to work on in silence, still inspired with the belief, that in casting "a handful of corn in the earth, upon the top of the mountains, the fruit thereof shall shake like Lebanon."

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